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## Global jitters

# Three countries confirm new outbreak of bird flu

By Chu Meng

A strain of bird flu, potentially lethal to humans, has killed 2,600 birds on a poultry farm in China's northern region of Inner Mongolia – China's first reported outbreak of bird flu in more than two months. Russia and Romania have also confirmed new outbreaks of bird flu.

Thailand's Prime Minister confirmed that a 48-year-old farmer died after eating infected chicken, making him the 13th victim of the disease in that country.

The new outbreaks fuel fears of a global influenza pandemic as Europe scrambled to contain the virus on its southeastern flank.

Meanwhile, efforts to boost production of anti-flu vaccines multiplied after Roche announced it would allow others to produce oseltamivir, the anti-flu drug the Swiss giant sells as the patented Tamiflu.

There were no reports of human infections in Inner Mongolia, according to the Health Ministry. Athaluck Bhatisevi of the World Health Organization's Beijing Office confirmed yesterday that the WHO supervised efforts to bring the epidemic near the regional capital of Hohhot under control.

No new cases have been reported and diagnosed so far, the press officer of the Agricultural Ministry said yesterday.

The H5N1 strain has already killed more than 60 people in Asia and infected 117 people since 2003. The big fear among experts is that H5N1 may mutate, acquiring genes from the human influenza virus that would make it highly infectious as well as lethal -

possibly killing millions worldwide as the flu pandemic of 1918 did.

Thailand has taken steps to fight bird flu, but the kingdom has struggled to completely eradicate the disease, which showed up last week in wild sparrows outside Bangkok.

In Moscow, Russia's agriculture ministry said the virus - already detected in Siberia in the summer - had been discovered in the province of Tula, west of the Ural mountains, apparently borne by migrating ducks. This is the first time the virus has arrived west of the Urals in Russia.

Russia has culled hundreds of thousands of fowl and quarantined numerous areas in a bid to wipe out the virus.

On Europe's borders, Romanian and Turkish authorities continued to battle to contain the outbreaks. In Romania, authorities said tests had confirmed the presence of new cases of the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus.

But the focus of more-immediate concern for Europe has turned to Greece, where authorities are awaiting the results of tests on a suspected case found on the tiny Aegean island of Oinousses.

If the H5N1 virus was confirmed in Greece, it would be the first time the lethal strain had arrived in the 25-nation EU.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization announced a marked increase in chances that bird flu would move to the Middle East and Africa, and hit countries poorly equipped to deal with an outbreak. The EU announced plans for an exercise simulating a human flu pandemic to improve readiness.

By Jackie Zhang

The unique sounds of Beijing have been captured by four well known British musicians and people can now listen to these recordings in parks and from "moving" amplifiers throughout the city.

The "Sound and the city" concept is based on David Toop's "My favorite sounds of London" and it aims to make people think about the relationship between sounds and the environment they live in and how the sounds connect their lives with the city.

Toop was invited to Beijing together with Peter Cusack, Brian Eno and Clive Bell by the British Council.

## Listen to the unique sounds of Beijing

They found that the city's sound environment was in some ways unique and very interesting and wanted to capture it in four different ways. These recordings will be available to the public.

Toop installed his sound equipment in Zhongshan Park earlier this week and Eno will install his this afternoon in Ritan Park.

Toop's sound equipment is

made of grey bricks, which are commonly seen in Beijing. He calls his sound equipment "Water Calligraphy".

"I was inspired by the old men who practice calligraphy in parks. I see them writing Chinese characters with big pens and water on the cement, which made me think of sounds in society. Just like the water characters on the ground, sounds will disappear eventually."



Visitors in Zhongshan Park listen to the sounds collected by David Toop on Monday.

Photo by Hao Hongjie

He built a wall with these bricks, and earphones were hung on the wall, through which people can listen to the sounds he collected. These sounds contain music played by street artists, sounds of insects and birds, sounds in stores, markets and temples, sounds of bicycles in lanes, sounds of the whistles tied to pigeons and other sounds of the city.

"My most favorite sounds in Beijing are the sounds of whistles tied to pigeons, and the sounds in lanes," Toop said, "The sounds that I collected in lanes include people talking, sounds of them washing their faces and cleaning teeth in the morning. In western countries, people live in communities and have their private spaces. But people living in lanes here talk together and live together everyday. I think it is amazing."

Cusack and Eno are currently preparing for their sound equipment installation," said Liu Jia, a staff member from the British Council.

Eno will install his sound equipment around the sacrificial altar in Ritan Park, which was used for the ancient emperors to offer a sacrifice to the sun.

Cusack's sound equipment will not be in a fixed place, but will be able to reach different places in the city. He will use eight amplifiers recording different sounds. These will be installed on bicycles and people will ride with them on different planned routes. Some art and music fans will be invited to participate in the activity.

Bell is impressed with the pop music in China and will record the most popular Chinese pop songs in his own style on CDs. These CDs will be disseminated to stores, restaurants, and hair salons.

## First Chinese 'space tourist' unveiled

By Annie Wei



Greg Olsen (left) and Jiang Fang at the press conference yesterday.

Photo by Gao Ran

China's first "space tourist" has already paid his \$US100,000 (\$12,100 yuan) for the trip and will make his way into space sometime during 2007 or 2008.

He is Jiang Fang, CEO of Hong Kong Space Travel Ltd, who made the announcement yesterday at a press conference in Beijing. Greg Olsen, 60, the American technology entrepreneur who just finished a stay of more than a week at the International Space Station, also attended the press conference.

Olsen, the third civilian to go to space, paid \$US20 million for his trip. Jiang's flight is cheaper because it will only be sub-orbital.

Hong Kong Space Travel Ltd is

an agency of the US Space Adventures company which offers space travel to civilians. Space Adventures is developing a passenger suborbital space program, with licensed passenger flights scheduled for 2007-2008.

"My family did not support my decision to go to space," Jiang said, "but I think it will be a great adventure."

When the Hong Kong Space Travel Ltd was launched this year, Jiang announced that they had already secured their first Chinese client. The mysterious "space tourist" turned out to be the CEO of the company.

Jiang said that he is a space-adventure fan and he applied for sub-orbital flight in 2004, when

Hong Kong Space Travel Ltd had not been established yet. "There was no space agency in China at the time to help Chinese civilians. After six months of negotiations, we were finally approved to be their agency in China."

Potential "space tourists" should be physically fit and as long as Chinese nationals can leave the country legally and the US and Russia grant them visas they should be able to travel in space, Jiang said.

Olsen said that his trip was completely personally motivated. "I wanted to experience space flight, weightlessness and to see the earth from space. Because I am a scientist, I wanted to do some scientific experiments as well."

Do we really need a standard for beauty?



Photo by China Beauty-Fashion

## Beauty beyond measure? New book says no

By Zhou Ying

Is beauty only in the eye of the beholder, as Shakespeare once said? No, claims a new book, you can distinguish Chinese beauties from their more ordinary sisters by applying a new set of standards defining beauty from head to toe.

The recently published book *China Beauty* tries to define beauty from the Chinese perspective. While trying to answer this age old question the publishers have also sparked the public's interest on the issue of beauty

in China.

Published by *China Beauty-Fashion*, it is the first book in China to give a complete guide to how a beautiful Chinese woman should look like. The 18 chapters provide standards of beauty for all areas of the body, from the ears to the toenails.

The book even gives detailed statistics and measurements of each "ideal" organ. For example, the standard measurements for a "perfect eye" are between 28 to 34 millimeters in length and 10 to 20.5 millimeter in width.

Zhang Xiaomei, chairman of

China Beauty-Fashion, said the idea for the book rushed into her head when famous model Lu Yan was regarded as an eastern beauty in eyes of western people. "Chinese people at that time did not agree that she was beautiful. We are very much influenced by western concepts of beauty, and I think it is time to discuss what Chinese people think."

They held a two-month symposium with experts from home and abroad on various beauty topics. They also conducted a broad internet based investigation to gather the opinions of many people.

Zhang said they did not want to set up a clear cut definition of beauty. "We are just providing a platform to gather all kinds of standards together. Our role is to analyze opinions and get a common sense of beauty. Hopefully, Chinese people can make their own conclusions on beauty standards before the 2008 Olympics."

The statistics in the book have already created controversy.

"The concept of beauty is non-figurative, and can not simply be measured with statistics," said Xue Hongyu, deputy director of the Department of Plastic Sur-

gery at Beijing University Third Hospital. "The harmony of all the organs is of the greatest importance."

Wang Zailing, a personal trainer from the Four Seasons Fitness Club, said that both physical and mental health are the main factors in beauty. "More and more women now pay attention to these issues, because they think a healthy body and a positive attitude are more important than appearance."

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# China issues 1st white paper on democracy

The Information Office of China's State Council has issued a white paper on China's political democracy, vowing to actively push forward the reforms of its political system.

The paper, entitled The Building of Political Democracy in China, is the first of its kind, giving a detailed account of the inception, development and contents of the socialist political democracy and the principles the country will abide by.

According to the paper, the socialist political democracy 'is the apt choice suited to China's conditions

and meets the requirement of social progress.'

In building a socialist political democracy, China has always adhered to the basic principles of Marxist theory: that democracy can be combined with the reality of China, the paper states.

In the process, China has also utilized knowledge from the achievements of the political civilization of mankind, including Western democracy, and assimilated these democratic elements into China's traditional culture and institutional civilization.

The white paper acknowledges China's progress in building a socialist democratic political system over the last 20 years.

'Despite the tremendous achievements already made in the building of a socialist political democracy, the CPC and the Chinese people are clearly aware of the many problems yet to be overcome.'

Major difficulties include: the democratic system has not yet been perfected; the people's right to manage state and social affairs; economic and cultural undertakings as leaders of the

country in a socialist market economy are not yet fully realized; laws that have already been enacted are sometimes not fully observed or enforced; and violations of the law sometimes go unpunished.

The white paper also admits that 'bureaucracy and corruption still exist and have spread into some departments and localities.'

'There is still a long way to go in China's building of political democracy, which will be a historical process of continuous improvement and development.'

(Xinhua)

## Third phase of CEPA agreement launched

By Annie Wei

Details of the Supplement II to the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) between Hong Kong and the Mainland were announced this week. The updated document extends tariff-free access to the Mainland for all Hong Kong origin products and liberalization in existing CEPA service sectors.

Vice Minister of Commerce Liao Xiaoqi and Hong Kong's Financial Secretary Henry Tang signed the agreement.

The two sides started the discussion in May 2005. The agreement reached opened the third phase of CEPA.

The Mainland shall fully implement zero tariffs on imported goods from Hong Kong

from January 1, 2006, except prohibited articles, such as used or waste electrical machinery and medical/surgical products, chemical residues, municipal waste, and tiger bones.

The Mainland will also provide preferential treatment to Hong Kong service products in 27 service areas, including accounting, legal, audiovisual, construction, distribution, banking, tourism, transport and individually-owned stores.

The Hong Kong Trade and Industry Department expects the zero import tariff to attract Hong Kong manufacturing of brand name products, manufacturing process of high value added content products or substantial intellectual property input.



The US promised US\$1.26 million to China to train 20 senior Chinese air traffic control personnel and help with China's ARJ21 regional aircraft project. Yang Yuanyuan, director-general of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, and Thelma J. Askey, director of US Trade Development Agency, signed the agreement in Washington DC, October 19. Xinhua Photo

### Number News

**5** Five leading corporations on the Chinese mainland were ranked in a list of the top 50 transnational corporations in developing countries, according to a report by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

**150** China has 150 million people living in acute poverty despite its impressive economic growth in the past two decades.

"The World Bank needs to work with China for the benefit of the impoverished in many countries," said the World Bank President, Paul Wolfowitz.

**400** China's mainland imported 400 metric tons of Taiwan-produced fruits in July and August, according to He Ziyang, an official from the Ministry of Agriculture.

**880** China's catering sector expects to reap 880 billion yuan (US\$108.6 billion) in retail sales in 2005, continuing the two-digit growth of the last 14 years, said the Ministry of Commerce.

**900** China has spent 900 million yuan (about US\$110 million) on its second manned space mission, Shenzhou-6 Spacecraft, said a senior Chinese space program official.

**100,000** Nearly 100,000 foreigners drawn to China's booming economy are enjoying their work and life on the Chinese mainland, according to People's Daily.

**840,000** China's estimated AIDS/HIV sufferers could be as high as 840,000, although only 126,808 were reported at the end of July, according to the Ministry of Health.

## New food safety standards to adhere to WTO standards

By Chu Meng

"The proportion of international food safety standards adopted by domestic food products will be forced to increase from the current 20 percent to at least 55 percent by the end this year," said Li Zhonghai, administration director. The Standardization Administration of China announced that China is overhauling its national food safety standards to make sure they comply with economic development needs and to facilitate international trade.

Li goes on to say, "The administration will eliminate outdated and ineffective national standards this year, while taking a hard look at how the country's compulsory standards conform with the World Trade Organization's Agreement on Food Barriers to Trade".

The administration director gave details on the areas the new standards will focus on. "The further enhanced catalogues of food products will concentrate on raw agricultural exports such as the raw meat of domestic animals and birds; as well as refined processed food such as milk powder, snack foods and so on." Li said. "Any national compulsory standards that fail to conform to the legitimate objectives stated in the WTO will be either abolished or revised".

He Qiurong, chief public officer from the State Food and Drug Administration concurred, "the enhancement of compulsory international food safety standards on domestic manufacturers will improve our supervision and management in the market. At present, the number of disputes between average consumers and food manufacturers between domestic exporters and foreign importers has increased exponentially."

In fact, many Chinese national food safety standards have been in use for more than 10 years without being assessed or revised. Most of them barely meet the world trade standards. Therefore, the remaining national standards will be removed, modified or merged with similar standards, depending on how they fit in with economic development and market demands.

A national standard should be assessed for efficacy within five years of its issuance and revised within three years, according to Li Zhonghai.

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Overview of Victoria Falls. Picture is from page 16

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## Weekly Review – World

## Motorola sues ex-president over new job

Motorola Inc., the world's No. 2 maker of mobile phones, has brought suit against its former president, accusing him of breaching non-competition agreements with the company by accepting the top job at Nortel Networks Corp.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday in a Chicago state court, alleges that Mike Zafirovski's new job at the Canadian telecommunications-equipment maker will mean the use or disclosure of Motorola's trade secrets.

The lawsuit seeks to stop Zafirovski, 51, from working for Nortel for two years, keep him from hiring Motorola employees and prevent him from disclosing confidential information about Motorola.

– AP

## GM posts fourth straight quarterly loss of US\$1.6 bln

GM, the US car giant and the world's biggest automaker, which lost more than \$1.4 billion in the first half of the year, posted a third-quarter loss of \$1.6 billion.

Pressure on GM is intense, with its main auto parts supplier, Delphi, in bankruptcy, sales of sport utility vehicles stalled, and raw materials costs rising.

CEO Rick Wagoner said on Monday that GM had reached agreement with the United Auto Workers trade union on ways to reduce health-care expenses as a result of the fourth straight quarterly loss. The loss extends GM's longest unprofitable streak in 13 years.

– Reuters

## Cisco to invest US\$1.1bln in India

US-based Cisco Systems Inc. will spend US\$1.1 billion in India over the next three years in the company's largest investment outside the US, its chief executive said Wednesday.

The company's revenue has grown by 50 percent in the country in the past two years.

Cisco, based in San Jose, California, started its India operations in 1995 and plans to triple its work force from the current 1,400 by 2008. The company has its global research and development center in the southern city of Bangalore and offices in seven other Indian cities.

– AP

## Coca-Cola profit surges 37% on sales in Asia, US

Coca-Cola Co. said third-quarter profit rose 37 percent on higher sales of tea and soft drinks in Asia and in the US.

Net income increased to US\$1.28 billion and sales rose to US\$6.04 billion from US\$5.6 billion, Coca-Cola said in a statement distributed by PR Newswire.

Gains in Asia were led by demand for juice drinks such as Orange Pulp by Minute Maid in China, a country that had 9.1 percent gross domestic product growth last year and which now represents 4 percent of Coke's global volume.

– Bloomberg

## New copyright suit filed against Google

An association of US book publishers said it was suing Google, claiming that the Internet giant's plan to make digital copies of millions of books without permission violates copyright laws.

The Association of American Publishers (AAP) said in a statement its lawsuit was filed "only after lengthy discussions broke down between AAP and Google's top management regarding the copyright infringement implications of the Google Print Library Project."

In the project, Google has agreements with libraries at universities. According to lawsuits, Google has not sought the approval of the authors or publishers of these works.

– AFP

## Concern for digital camera owners over faulty products

By Qiu Jiaoning

Owners of many Japanese digital cameras are in possession of faulty products. Sony, who manufactures charge coupled devices (CCD) for a range of camera producers, have admitted the faulty technology leads to smeared photos and videos.

Seven Japanese digital camera manufacturers – Sony, Fuji Photo Film, Canon, Olympus, Nikon, Konica Minolta, and Ricoh – have discovered problems with imaging sensor components. Other manufacturers, which use the same components, are expected to follow suit.

The faulty imaging sensor component

is the CCD: the most important part of digital (video) camera products. The defective CCD sensors have poor image quality, and demonstrate a visible smearing on the sensors.

The controversy began when Sony published a statement revealing a limited number of CCDs manufactured from October 2002 to March 2004 were faulty. When the faulty product is used in camera mode, the LCD panel or electronic viewfinder shows either a distorted image or no image at all.

Sony said that it will offer free out of warranty repairs to the owners of products that exhibit the fault within the next

five years.

31 Sony models, 18 Cannon models, four Fuji Photo Film models, three Nikon models, 10 Konica Minolta models, and several Ricoh and Olympus models have exhibited the fault. It has been confirmed that high temperatures or high-humidity environments may cause the internal wiring to become undone.

The root cause of the problem is not immediately clear. Not all of the affected CCDs were manufactured by Sony. In the case of Fujifilm, some of the faulty CCDs were manufactured by Fujifilm while others were not, Mizuki Itou, a spokeswoman for Fujifilm told Tokyo's local media.

## China UnionPay launches new logo



China UnionPay Co. will introduce its new logo, which adds the English words UnionPay on the original design, from this Tuesday. Minor changes are also made to the size of the three color zones and the gradient.

China UnionPay Co, the Chinese version of MasterCard and Visa, claims that the 800 million bank cards in its system will be accepted for transactions in the US, Germany, France, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines and Vietnam.

Photo by CFP

## China Construction Bank IPO launch biggest of the year

By Chu Meng

Shares of the China Construction Bank (CCB) will be traded in Hong Kong on October 27 following the bank's global launch of this year's biggest IPO on October 14.

Though the clear total volume of IPO has not been calculated, experts estimate that the number might reach US\$7.7 billion. Meanwhile, the price for each share was within a range of HK\$2.20 to 2.30, instead of the original expectation of HK\$2.40. The final price will probably be fixed at HK\$2.30.

The shares had ranged from HK\$1.90 to 2.40 in the circulars issued before the

IPO. The launch is the largest one of its kind, eclipsing another mainland bank, Bank of Communications.

Shares for institutional investors, accounting for 95 percent of the bank's planned total, have been fully booked. Investment bankers for the deal include Credit Suisse, First Boston, China International Capital Corporation and Morgan Stanley. And in terms of both individual and institutional investors, the virtual booked volume has been 100 times the bank's initial planned total.

Foreign investments in CCB have attracted great attention in recent months.

Bank of America, a strategic investor, has already poured in an investment of US\$2.5 billion. It also said it would invest another US\$500 million to maintain its 9 percent stake in CCB when it is listed. The total investment of Temasek Holdings Ltd., the investment arm of the Singaporean government, would reach US\$2.47 billion for a 5.1 percent stake.

Zhu Wuxiang, professor from Tsinghua University's School of Economics Management said, "Foreign banks are making strategic investments in order to gain a foothold in the fast-growing and increasingly competitive

Chinese banking market. In China, authorities have been encouraging Chinese banks to seek foreign partnerships to build up capital and improve management before China fully opens its banking industry to foreign competition in late 2006."

Zhu added that, being different from other IT companies, CCB is an entity with strong a governmental background and support.

How it will perform on the Hong Kong stock market in the long run depends on the resolution of debt problems, a major hangover from the country's central planning days.

## Outlook

## Court delays CNPC bid for PetroKazakhstan

## Analyst's Take:

From a strategic point of view, CNPC has been involved in the oil and gas business in Kazakhstan for years. Based on the guiding principle of mutual benefit, CNPC has fostered sound relations with the government of Kazakhstan and KazMunaiGaz, which has an annual crude oil output of 7 million tons. In return, the Kazakhstan government is trying to find a powerful Asian partner to safeguard the country's status in aspects such as world trade, economic development, and international anti-terrorism.

As I understand it, the acquisition is the natural choice of CNPC's business expansion in Kazakhstan. It is also part of China's energy strategy to secure every possible oil resource on its borders. By buying 100 percent of the company, CNPCI will become a wholly foreign-invested company in Kazakhstan. The company will benefit

from their government's favorable economic policies, and can secure a much more stable and steady share of the global crude oil market. The Kazakhstan government does not want to completely lose ground in domestic energy strategic control and mineral resources exploration. They want to join with CNPCI to build an oil refinery. This is why KazMunaiGaz will spend US\$1.4 billion to buy back about 33 percent of shares. Relying on long-term cooperation perspectives, CNPC's unique technological competitive strength and management experience will be fully utilized to upgrade the value of the assets acquired. It will also be favorable for CNPC to increase investment there to promote the local economy in Kazakhstan.

– Zhao Junjie, Associate Professor from Institute of Eastern European and Central Asian Studies, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. (Chu Meng)

## Weekly Review – Nation

## Alibaba to invest 1 bln yuan in Taobao.com

By Qiu Jiaoning

Alibaba.com hopes to create 1 million jobs for entrepreneurs in China through a 1 billion yuan investment package that aims to enhance Taobao.com's e-commerce marketplace

The Taobao.com Chinese-language consumer auction site will remain free for buyers and sellers until at least October 2008.

Taobao.com allows users to post products, communicate in real time, and make transactions online. The marketplace was launched in 2003.

## German consortium buys 14% stake in Huaxia Bank

By Han Manman

A German banking consortium has paid 2.6 billion yuan for a 14 percent stake in Beijing-based joint stock bank, Huaxia Bank.

Germany's largest lender, Deutsche Bank, will take a 9.9 percent stake. Europe's biggest independent private bank, Kelon-based SalOppenheim Jr. & Cie KgaA, will buy 4.1 percent.

The deal, which still requires Chinese government approval, will make Deutsche the second-largest shareholder after China's steel maker Shougang Group, which holds an 11.9 percent stake.

## Honda to build first powertrain plant in China

By Han Manman

Japan's automaker Honda Motor Co. has said it will invest US\$90 million to set up a wholly-owned automobile powertrain components production plant in Foshan city, Guangdong Province.

The new plant, named Honda Auto Parts Manufacturing Co., Ltd. will manufacture and assemble transmissions and drive shafts, as well as manufacturing crankshafts and connecting rods for engines. Production at Honda's fourth major automatic transmission plant in the world is scheduled to start in the spring of 2007, with an initial production capacity of 240,000 units per year.

## Soros pumps up US\$25 million in Grand China Air

By Grace Wei

International financier George Soros has made an additional investment of US\$25 million in Grand China Air, an air service conglomerate that is still being created by Hainan Airlines Group, China's fourth largest air carrier.

Hainan Airlines Group, with headquarters based in Haikou, capital of Hainan Province, now owns a fleet of 107 airplanes and operates over 500 air routes to about 100 cities around the world.

## China Southern Power to sell shares

By Grace Wei

China Southern Power Grid Corp, which owns the electricity distribution grid in the south of the country, is preparing an IPO of its shares.

The sale will help fund a planned 30-year program to invest US\$2.5 trillion to meet power demand in the fast-expanding region. No timetable has been set for the sale of shares or their listing on the stock exchange.

The sale of a 25 percent in China Southern Power Grid, valued at about 200 billion yuan, could raise billions of dollars.

## Chung Fung opens Angolan steel mill

By Grace Wei

Chung Fung Holding has opened a US\$28 million steel mill in Angola, the southern African country's industry ministry said.

The plant, Industria Sigerurgica, will be 51 percent owned by Chung Fung and 49 percent owned by Sociedade Angolana de Siderurgia Ltd., the ministry in Luanda said.



By Hou Mingxin

Located in Beijing's most expensive zone - Jianguomenwai Dajie, is a plain and practical office. It's in keeping with the style of its owner, 57-year old Nobuyasu Matsudaira. As Mitsubishi Heavy Industry (MHI)'s general representative in China, Nobuyasu imparts the wisdom earned over 25 years in the technology industry.



# MHI: The China stratagem

Interview with Mitsubishi Heavy Industry's general representative in China

## Creeds

**Q: What is the managing concept of your company?**

**A:** We believe the customer comes first and we are obligated to be an innovative partner to society. We base our activities on honesty, harmony, and a clear distinction between public and private life. We strive for innovative management and technological development from an international perspective.

## Business in China

**Q: How many companies does the MHI operate in China?**

**A:** 16 joint ventures (JVs) and two representative offices (including one office in Taipei): a total investment capital of 1 billion yuan. Printing, air conditioners, superchargers, metallurgy equipment, ship equipment and paper making are some of the industries.

**Q: What are the MHI's overseas business principles?**

**A:** Faster, faster and faster. Presently, the business in China accounts for 5 percent of MHI as a whole. To be honest, it's not as good as we expected.

**Q: How is the MHI doing in China?**

**A:** Not bad. In MHI's overseas markets, China's increase is the fastest. The statistics show that the JVs sold 25.5 billion Japanese yen (1.785 billion yuan) worth of products in 2002. By now, the figure is over 56 billion Japanese yen (3.92 billion yuan).

**Q: Any problems in your Chinese business?**

**A:** Yes. Some business segments actually performed badly, especially with large-scale equipment involved. The main reason for this is the Chinese government's macro economic control.

**Q: As a CEO, what is the biggest challenge you have faced?**

**A:** The MHI has operated lots of businesses in China, but mainly in coastal areas in the east. One very important task for me is to exploit the new cooperation opportunities in other parts of China, like the Northeast, Center and West China. I have been calling on related leaders in some provinces and try to find some potential local partners.

**Q: Do you have plans to establish similar joint ventures in these areas in the near future like you have done in the east?**

**A:** Not yet. But many local enterprises have shown their good will in cooperating with us.

**Q: It is reported that the MHI wants Hitachi's subsidiary company Hitachi Air Conditioners. How is the negotiation going on?**

**A:** It failed. Because the two sides agreed that it is not advantageous for development if the two companies unite. But we will cooperate in the future.

**Q: Analysts said that the ultimate purpose of the MHI's buying the Monroville-based Westinghouse Electric Co., was to enter China's nuclear power industry, since the Westinghouse is bidding for two Chinese nuclear power plants. True?**

**A:** Yes, we are one of the bidders for the Westinghouse. But whether the MHI will enter the Chinese nuclear power industry will be decided by headquarters in Japan.

**Q: How will the MHI deal with the competition from American and French firms if it enters Chinese nuclear power? The US congress has allowed American**



Nobuyasu Matsudaira, Mitsubishi Heavy Industry's general representative in China

Photos by Tian Yufeng

lenders to provide money for Chinese nuclear power plants; French companies are involved in seven of 11 Chinese plants under construction.

**A:** In terms of Chinese nuclear power plants, the MHI's basic principle is: we stand in with the Westinghouse.

**Q: Beijing-Shanghai High-speed Railway is a hot topic in China. Where does MHI fit in?**

**A:** MHI will not bid for the main body of the project. We'd like to serve as an equipment supplier as we did in Tokaido Shinkansen.

## China's investment environment

**Q: Compared with the situation ten years ago, what do you think are the main changes in China's market?**

**A:** China's economy, when I came to work here two years and seven months ago, could be called an "explosion." Now I call it "expansion".

**Q: What's the difference between "explosion" and "expansion"?**

**A:** "Explosion" refers to distortion in some aspects in the process of high-speed development. "Expansion" means a fast increase as well as good govern-

mental control. Presently, the Chinese government is doing a good job in terms of macro economic control.

**Q: Is China living up to its commitments in re-entering the WTO?**

**A:** I'd love to see the Ministry of Commerce may issue some regulations very quickly, but the corresponding cooperation from related departments seems a bit laggardly.

The development of a country's market should rely on its legal system. In this sense, I think the Chinese government should make changes.

**Q: If you were given a chance to make suggestions to the Chinese government, what would you like to say?**

**A:** I would suggest the Chinese government should intensify the protection of Intellectual Property Rights.

**Q: Sources from the Ministry of Commerce said that China plans to unify the corporate income tax for domestic and foreign-funded enterprises in 2007. Will this affect the MHI's business in China?**

**A:** MHI products in China are for China so I don't think so. Also, I think besides the tax, the Chinese government still provides some other pref-

erential policies for multinationals. 60 percent of China's exports come from foreign capital-related enterprises, and canceling those preferential policies will only result in foreign investment's withdrawal from China.

## Advice

**Q: What suggestions or advice would you like to make to new investors coming to China? How should they deal with problems they may encounter in the 'special environment'?**

**A:** Do not invest here just because of China's cheap workforce, because labor-intensive enterprises mean much more market risk in the future. Second, consider the enterprise's perspective in the Chinese market.

**Q: The 'Go Outside' strategy has been a hot issue in Chinese enterprise. What suggestions would you make in terms of this strategy?**

**A:** Not to be backward-looking, especially when faced with difficulties, as it's not easy to do business in an unfamiliar environment. MHI's strategy is that 'strategy should not be changed easily'.

## About me

By Nobuyasu Matsudaira

I was born in a mountain village in northeastern Japan's Nigata, and grew up with my four brothers.

I spent my college life in Yokohama National University. I started to work for the MHI in 1971. I was not a hard-working student.

Since I was born in North Japan - the 'Snow Kingdom', skiing is my favorite sport. I started to play tennis when I came to China, where I have little chance to ski.

I have loved reading since I was a little boy. I read *Strange Stories from a Scholar's Studio* many times, which is the *Oriental A Thousand and One Nights*. I still remember the ghost stories in the book. Now, many young people here even do not know the book. I thus feel the change of time. In junior high school, I read *Outlaws of the Marsh* and *Romance of The Three Kingdoms*, but I have almost forgotten them, so I took the books with me to China to try to read them again.

I have two daughters. My wife often comes to China and enjoys life here. I visited Shenyang 20 years ago, and this is the first time I have visited China since. I am surprised by the constant change here. My wife and I like to travel in China when we have time; we love the land and the history. In order to know the country better, I have been trying to learn Chinese, but pronunciation is still hard for me.

I love reading about the Silk Road and West China and have a strong interest in going to visit. I also like to watch TV programs about China's beautiful natural scenery. I hoped I would understand China better by learning her history.

"Greatness comes from commonness" is my motto, which means you will reach your aim if you do it step by step. Although I am far from the greatness, I'd like to accumulate the commonness.

"One meeting in one life" is a Buddhist sutra, which means "please cherish the friend you meet now, because it may be the only meeting in your whole life." I'd love to make some more Chinese friends with this kind of feeling.

(Translated by Hou Mingxin)



MHI's railway system

AFP Photo



MHI's robot "Wakamaru" greets a press preview in Tokyo, September 15. Wakamaru can recognize human faces and voices.



# National Games marred by a series of scandals

By Zhou Ying

The 10th National Games being held in Jiangsu Province have been marred by a string of scandals including match-fixing and refereeing controversies.

A rematch for the women's judo over 78kg class final had to be held because, as hinted by coach Liu Yongfu, the Atlanta Olympics gold medallist Sun Fuming of Liaoning Province, deliberately lost to her provincial teammate Yan Sirui. Yan represented the Chinese Army Team in the games.

According to a special regulation designed to promote the exchange of athletes between delegations, the Liaoning delegation would have also benefited from the gold medal earned by Yan.

In last Thursday's final of the women's over 78kg class, the favored Olympic and World Cup champion, Sun Fuming upset all the spectators when she lost in less than half a minute to the underdog, Yan Sirui.

"It was obviously a fixed match. Match fixing definitely goes against sportsmanship and further development of the sport," said Song Zhaonian, deputy director of Weightlifting at the Wrestling and Judo Sports Administration Center of China.

After the final, neither Sun nor her coach Liu Yongfu denied that the match was fixed in order to seek a double-win result out of the final.

Sun eventually won the rematch and the title, putting an end to the scandal.

Coach Liu Yongfu was given a warning by the Organizing Committee of the National Games. "If the punishment handed to me will make others learn a lesson, I welcome the decision and am willing to be the target of criticism," said Liu



Sun Fuming (left) and her coach Liu Yongfu, after 'losing' the match again last Saturday.

Photo by Liu Jianmin

after the rematch.

Earlier during the games, there were also refereeing scandals surrounding the National Games. Three wrestling judges were banned for life

on bribery charges, and Zhong Ling, the country's leading rhythmic gymnast, accused referees of fixing the competition results.

Xia Xueluan, professor from the

Social Department of Beijing University said, "We can lose a game, but must not lose our credibility. Credibility is a national symbol."

Xia attributed the scandals to an unhealthy philosophy of athletes and sports officials. "Some local sports officials and athletes attach too much importance to medals instead of participation and sportsmanship."

Liu Peng, president of the State General Administration of Sports, warned all participants in the National Games against disciplinary actions following the judo scandal. "We will show no mercy for offenders," said Liu. "We must uphold justice in sports."

Experts also warned that competition at the quadrennial National Games, has always been extremely fierce since a gold medal will earn the winner tens of thousands \$US, even apartments, from local governments.

The National Games are regarded as the "mini-Olympic" games, and the 10th National Games are like a playground for the coming Beijing Olympics. However, the scandals once again forced the public to begin considering the possibility of abolishing the National Games.

Wei Guo, a student from Beijing University said that the series of scandals take the National Games far from the essence of sports, and could have a negative effect on morale. "I think it is time to make the event history," he added.

However, Zhang Faqiang, vice minister of the General Administration of Sports, said that innovation is better than abolishment. "We have got problems, but we have to think about how to improve the event. It is a good opportunity to prepare for the Olympics," he added.



Items carried by Shenzhou VI spaceship were exhibited on Wednesday, including the banner of the International Committee and outer space paintings by children.

Photo by icpress.com

## Shenzhou VI capsule opened for scientific study

By Chu Meng

The Shenzhou VI re-entry capsule was opened on Wednesday at the China Research Institute of Space Technology (CRIST). The institute will remove all the scientific experiment equipment to study the large quantity of data gained during the space flight.

Scientists believe the data will shed more light on the successful space mission. The study will help future planned missions of Shenzhou VII and Shenzhou VIII. Pan Teng, Space Program official said "We'll look at items such as photos and data, and compare them with those that we gathered during the mission itself. The comparison should provide a scientific basis for future improvements to the spacecraft."

Many meaningful and commemorative items such as the banner of the China Polar Region Exploration, the banner of the International Olympic Committee, and outer space paintings from 10 children were taken on the space journey.

Astronauts Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng landed on Monday morning after 115 hours and 32 minutes in space. The re-entry capsule was then sealed again for scientific studies and was transferred to its developer in Beijing.

Yuan Jiajun, CRIST President, said at the ceremony, "The buffer engine of the capsule ran well before landing and remained intact, and the burning of the outer shell is normal. The heat-proof structure of the capsule wall was intact as well and the capsule was still hermetically sealed, which indicates the successful re-entry of the spacecraft."

The two astronauts are currently in an isolation ward. They will stay there for up to two weeks, for comprehensive medical examinations. The isolation will protect them from contracting infectious diseases, while allowing them to readjust to the Earth's gravity and also recuperate.

So far, the country has had many successful space experiments. According to the Chinese Society of Astronautics (CSA), China has carried nearly 1,200 species of seeds to space aboard its return satellites and Shenzhou-series spacecrafts, and has planted most of them on a large scale. Moreover, the country has conducted 11 space seed breeding experiments, 998 species on return satellites and approximately 200 on the Shenzhou series spacecrafts. The seeds include: grain, oil crops, vegetables, flowers, grass, mushrooms and insects.

# Trial offers Iraqis way to come to terms with their history

Overseas Perspective

USA Today editorial, October 19

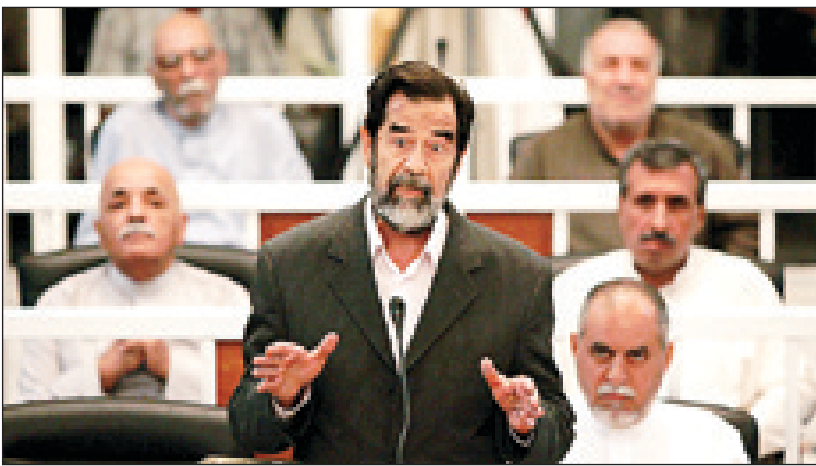
The narratives of countries are inextricably tied up with the lives of the men and women who rule them: dictators, kings or elected leaders. That's important to remember as former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein's trial for crimes against his people gets underway today in Iraq. Far more is at stake than the fate of one man.

The trial will be a symbol - for Iraqis today, for the yet-to-be-written history of Iraq's future, for the broader Middle East and for the world - of what it means to use the rule of law to seek justice for victims of a brutal dictator.

This kind of moment has happened before. At the end of World War II, victors' justice was swiftly meted out to German officials at Nuremberg by a panel of judges from the United States and allied nations. More recently, former Serb dictator Slobodan Milosevic has faced an international court in The Hague in a trial that has already lasted three and a half years.

Iraq is ditching these models. It's trying Saddam himself, blending international and Iraqi law, with help from US advisers. This model offers the best chance for Iraqis to come to terms with their history. That wasn't possible at Nuremberg. And it hasn't been at Milosevic's rambling trial, conducted far from Serbia by foreigners who need translation.

For all the controversy about the US invasion of Iraq, few mourn the fall of Saddam's vicious regime or object to the effort to hold him accountable for his crimes. Saddam's trial will be far from perfect. There are many potential stumbling blocks. Yet, keeping the big picture in mind, it is still preferable to any feasible alternative. To understand why,



Saddam defends himself in court on Wednesday.

examine three main objections from human rights groups and others:

**The standards for the trial fall far short of the best US and international law.**

This is true. Saddam's guilt will be decided by a majority of a panel of judges and without a "beyond a reasonable doubt" requirement. Instead, they must find that the evidence of his guilt is compelling. Any death sentence is to be carried out within 30 days, with little chance for a substantive appeal. Yet the standards are still higher than in much of the Middle East - and will be recognized as such.

**The initial charges are minor and incomplete.**

Saddam is, for now, charged with ordering the murder of 143 people in the Shiite town of Du-jail after would-be assassins fired on his motorcade there in 1982. This round of the trial won't show-

case the most explosive and well-known of Saddam's crimes - the gassing of thousands of Kurds in 1988 and the assaults on the "Marsh Arabs" in 1991. But this was the first investigation to reach completion. Arguably, it may even be more convincing because of better evidence to date and because emotions over it do not run quite so high within Iraq.

**The timing is bad.**

Yes, the trial comes at a period of high tensions in Iraq and before a permanent government is elected. The Sunnis, who enjoyed elite status in Saddam's Iraq and are the backbone of the insurgency, are already reluctant to join the political process. They may well perceive the trial as a US-manipulated vendetta - and yet another reason not to take part in elections in December.

Yet to wait for an optimum mo-

ment could mean to wait forever. If not now, when?

The Iraqi judges have a tough job. They've been threatened with death. Saddam has every intention of patterning himself on Milosevic, insisting he is still the president of Iraq, that the trial is illegitimate and that the USA should be in the dock.

The Iraqi tribunal has taken some preventive action. It has adopted rules to prevent Saddam from copying Milosevic and acting as his own lawyer. Only excerpts are likely to be televised.

The perfect trial for a former dictator has yet to be devised. Saddam's won't be it. But, given the circumstances, the needs of Iraq, and the call of history, it is probably the best model. The tribunal deserves encouragement, not criticism.

(The above article does not represent the views of Beijing Today.)



Saddam sits with his seven former senior officials.



Saddam faces the judge

Xinhua / AFP Photos



# Lunar government to sell moon land in China



Photo by Geng Lei

By Jia Ting

Dennis M. Hope, a self-proclaimed master of the moon and CEO of the Lunar Embassy Corp., arrived in Beijing on Wednesday to hold a press conference for the opening of its embassy in China.

Li Jie, founder and CEO of Lunar Embassy China, also attended. Each journalist got a Certificate of Moon Land Ownership from the Lunar Embassy China. The company is currently selling moon land for 298 yuan per acre. "The price is based on the U.S. headquarter's price at US \$30 per acre, which includes \$20 for the moon property, \$1.5 for the tax, and \$10 for the processing charges. 298 yuan is slightly above US \$30 according to the cur-

rent exchange rate because the certificate issued here is a better quality print than the American version," explained Li Jie.

The first page of the certificate describes how Dennis Hope obtained possession of the moon. According to Hope, the Outer Space Treaty signed by all member countries of the United Nations in 1967 prescribed that no country should own outer space in any way. Since the treaty did not mention that individuals could not own part of planets or satellites, he registered the ownership of the moon at the U.S. San Francisco Land Administration Office. He then wrote letters to the governments of the United States, the Soviet Union, and the General Assembly of the

United Nation to inform them about his ownership of the moon.

Hope established his Lunar Embassy Corp. at the end of 1980 and began the business of selling land on the moon at US \$19.99 per acre. There are already branches of the Lunar Embassy in dozens of countries like Germany, Britain, France, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan.

In 2004, Hope wrote 210 letters to many governments all over the world to persuade them to establish foreign relations with his Lunar Government. "We are doing a very serious business even though many people consider it ridiculous," Li Jie, the 'Chinese Lunar Ambassador' told journalists.

## Gift of life flies to America

By Zhou Ying

The delivery of a vital blood cell donation to America on Monday afternoon marked the second successful transnational stem cell exchange of peripheral blood stem cells.

Twenty-nine-year-old Wang Lin, who arrived in Beijing from Anhui Province last Thursday, donated 240 milliliters of peripheral blood stem cells on Sunday and Monday at the Aerospace Center Hospital.

The recipient Kailee, an eight-year old Chinese girl, adopted by an American mother in 1998, contracted severe aplastic anemia in 2002.

The mother, Linda Wells, has been desperately looking for a donor with perfectly matching Human Leukocyte Antigens (HLA) in the stem cell database of the United States, Taiwan and the Chinese mainland for three years. HLA are proteins located on the surface of white blood cells and other tissues in the body. When two people share the same HLA, they are said to be a "match"—their tissues are immunologically compatible.

Liu Jinghu, deputy director of the Hematopoietic Stem Cell Donor Program Administration Center of Red Cross Society of China, said that Kailee's doctors had searched bone-marrow registries worldwide, including over eight million potential donors, before finally locating a match in August this year.

Qin Hongwu, official from Information Department of Aerospace Center Hospital said that Kailee would receive an operation in November this year.



Wang Lin in the hospital  
Photo by Chen Bai

## More security to protect ancient wall from climbers

By Jackie Zhang

Preservation concerns have led to tightened security at the Ming City Wall Park after two mountaineering youths were photographed scaling the ancient wall last Friday.

The climbers escaped the attention of security guards, but were caught on camera by a visitor, Li Shiwang.

The part of the wall in question is near Dongbianmen. Due to weathering, there are big gaps between some of the bricks, which the boys used to aid their ascent. "We discovered them and informed a park guard. When the park guard stopped them they climbed down and ran away," said Li.

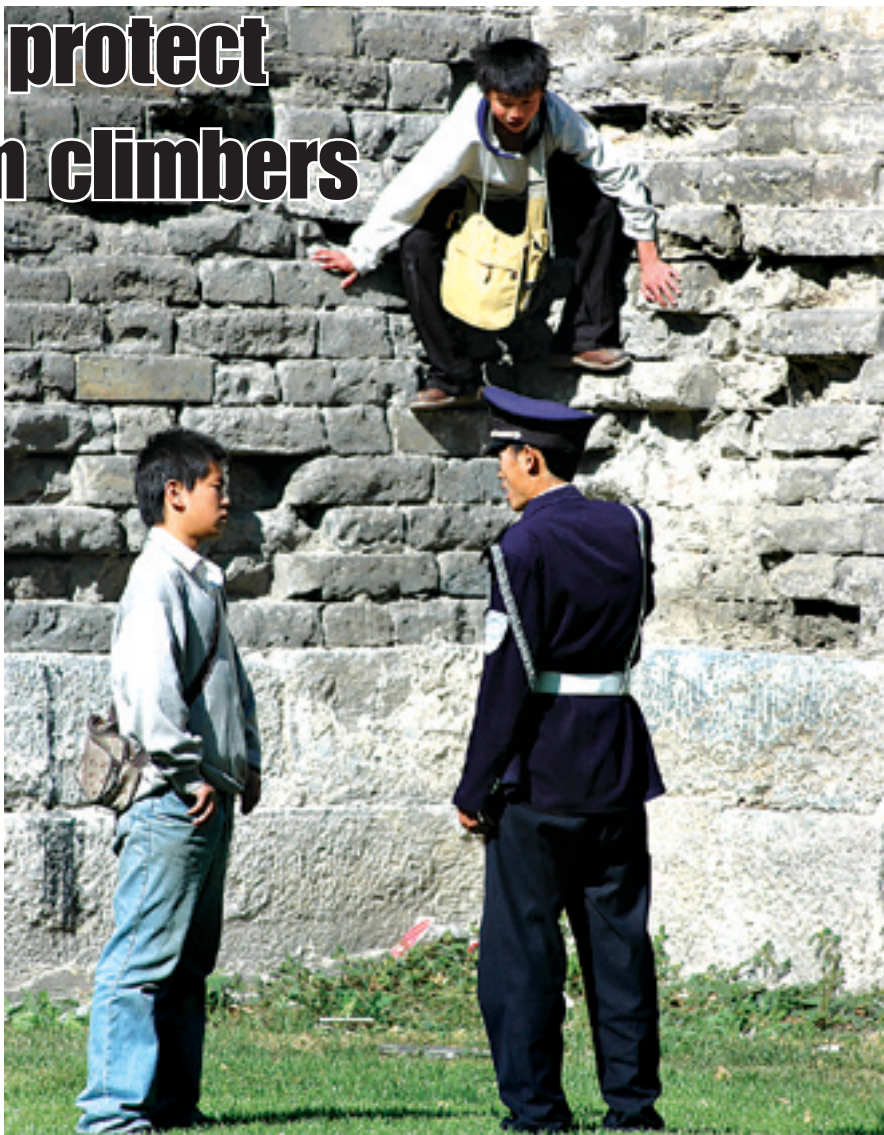
The city wall was originally built in 1419. The current 1.5-kilometer city wall, which used to part of the Beijing

inner city wall, is the only section left from the Ming dynasty.

"Since it is an open park anyone can enter, we have tried our best to manage the park and provide visitors with a nice environment. However, some things are out of our reach," said Jiang Luyan from the park's management office.

The management office of the park is responsible for daily security, but Beijing Municipal Bureau of Parks is in charge of the renovation and protection work.

A Dongcheng Culture Committee official said they are responsible for the large scale renovation of cultural relics, but the park management should take most of the responsibilities for the daily issues since the city wall is in the park, according to the official.



Get down from there

## Car registration: a tricky business

By Jia Ting

Allowing people to register cars under your name is a profitable business in Beijing, but it can also be costly if the drivers of the cars pass on motoring violations to you.

Mr. Shi living in Fengtai District has received over 20 car violation notices. All these cars have different license numbers and Mr. Shi is not the user of any of these cars.

"All the cars were purchased at the second-hand car market under my name. Now I can't reach the owners," said Mr. Shi.

According to Mr. Shi, there are many people like him at the sec-

ond-hand car market who rent out their Beijing residence permit to the purchasers from other cities. They are called *Beihu* in the business. Mr. Shi got involved recently. "Most of us who rent out the residence permits are low-income or disabled Beijingers. I'm jobless. The average price for renting out the residence permit once is about 100 yuan," Mr. Shi explained.

*Beihu*s are mainly employed by second-hand car dealers. The car dealers purchase cars on the second-hand market then transfer the car registration under the *Beihu's* name. The car dealer will resell the car

to other buyers who come from other cities as they are not allowed to buy a second-hand car without a Beijing residence permit. Some car dealers normally employ dozens of *Beihu*s and pay them monthly salary of 1,200-1,500 yuan.

"I have about 200 cars under my name. But you have to be very careful in this business. Usually we sign an agreement with the buyer to point out that he/she will assume all liability of the car is involved in an accident or traffic violation. Still, there are occasions I'll receive the bills and I can't afford the sanctions. So whenever I hear

there was big accident I worry about whether the car was under my name," Mr. Shi said.

Officials from the Vehicle Administration Office of Beijing Traffic Management Bureau explained that there was no specific regulation to restrict the number of cars one person can purchase, and that many people register cars under other people's names. The newly issued Traffic Safety Regulation can help prevent this problem as it has broadened the criteria for car purchase in Beijing to allow people from other cities to buy a car with a temporary residence permit.

## Patient 'squatting' in hospital for four years

By Jackie Zhang

An 88-year-old patient is taking a dispute with Chaoyang Hospital to extremes by refusing to leave the hospital. The dispute is now in its fourth year.

Guo Wenbin (pseudonym) is suffering from heart disease and diabetes. He refused to leave Chaoyang Hospital after being ordered to leave.

"We did this because the lawsuit between the hospital and us has not yet finished," said Guo Bingjun, the eldest son of the old man. However, the hospital does not agree.

Guo Wenbin entered the hospital with heart disease at the end of 2001. When he was about to leave, the doctor mistakenly asked him to take medicine containing penicillin, which caused an allergic reaction and sequelas,

such as deafness in one ear and blindness in one eye.

In 2002, Chaoyang Hospital brought Guo to court, saying that he had recovered and should leave. However, in March last year the Second Intermediate People's Court of Beijing Municipality judged that Guo had not recovered enough to leave the hospital and that treatment should continue. This August, the hospital brought another case against Guo, asking him to leave again.

Last weekend, the hospital invited two officers to the hospital to order Guo to leave. "The staff had not told us that the officers would be coming," said Guo Bingjun. "It is also illegal for them to issue notice to leave the hospital during the inquiry stage of the case."

Hospital lawyer Hu Wenzhong said the hospital had already withdrawn this year's accusation from the court, so the notarization was legal. "Furthermore, they haven't paid for the treatment so far. The bill is around 100,000 yuan. The sequelas have no relationship with the allergic reaction to penicillin. It is the result of his own disease," claimed Hu.

However, Guo Bingjun claimed that the court had not informed them about the issue of withdrawing the suit. As for the fees, he said his father enjoyed social medical welfare and that his working unit would pay for it. He added that they had tried to apply for medical legal action.

At present, the old man is given tablets and insulin everyday.



A very long stay in the hospital

"During the four years my father lived in the hospital, they have stopped treating him," said Guo Bingjun.

However, a doctor, who only said her family name was Peng, said that the hospital is taking care of Guo Wenbin now. "Since he is in the hospital for treatment, we will take care of him and give him proper treatment and medicine," claimed Peng.

## Counterfeit Nikes exposed

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The Administration of Industry and Commerce of Changshu, Jiangsu Province is investigating a website selling counterfeit top brand clothes.

The Administration got a call from a customer in Beijing, who received a SMS saying that the so-called "China Clothes Wholesale Net" (www.178198.com) sold original Nike shoes at a 10 percent discount. Customers contact them by the QQ number (net chat software produced by Tencent Company). After the customer forwards money to the appointed account, they will receive the shoes sent from an address in Changshu, Jiangsu Province.

According to the administration, both the license number and names of the staff that appeared on the website are invalid, and they are attempting to trace the contact telephone number and address. The website is only a platform, the investigation aims to discover the factory producing these counterfeits.

The website states that their goods are at low price because they are imported from the factory directly and have not passed through customs. Without the tariff and other taxes, the Nike shoes sell at 138 yuan a pair. The right of explanation of the price should be verified by the Shanghai Zhonghao Law Office, which, however, denied having any contact with the website at all.

The reporter of Beijing Youth Daily took a pair of the discounted Nike shoes to an authentic Nike shop to have them checked. The outcome showed that the discounted ones were indeed counterfeit. According to the representative of Nike in Beijing, the only authorized Nike dealer in China is the Nike shop. The price of a pair of original Nike shoes should be over 600 yuan.



"I'm too old for this."

Photo by Shen Ming

## Experience of being old

By Annie Wei

Renmin University students got to experience old age, thanks to a "senior citizens outfit".

The outfit, imported from Japan, included huge glasses, hearing blocks, and other burdensome gadgets for the back, arms and legs. Mr. Huang, a teacher from the School of Sociology & Population Studies, said: "Once you wear them, you can feel how hard it is to walk or move around."

The event was organized by the School of Sociology & Population Studies at Renmin University. Gao Song said that the purpose of the event was to encourage students to have more respect for senior citizens.

## Fragrant Hill tourists advised to take public transport

By Jia Ting

Beijing Traffic Administration Bureau is advising the public to take public transportation to the Red Leaves Festival at Fragrant Hills in order to avoid traffic jams.

As the peak-season approaches, tourist numbers are expected to exceed 90,000 for the coming weekends until early November. And over 8,000 vehicles are expected to gather at the parking lot, which only has room for 2,500 cars.

Tourists are suggested to take buses: 331, 360, and 904 to arrive at Xiangquan Huandao Bridge and then take a 15-minute walk to the entrance of the hill.



# Calling all volunteers

By Annie Wei

## The fair scene

Organizers of Beijing's first Volunteer Fair are hoping their small beginnings will lead to greater things.

Around 50 volunteers and volunteer organizations attended Sunday's fair at Hui Ling, a community center for the mentally disabled in a *hutong* just across from the West Gate of Jingshan Park.

The event was organized by Claire Nelson and Lee Ambrozio. Nelson is the project coordinator, and volunteer, for Hui Ling. Lee is an editor for the listing's magazine *that's Beijing*.

Nelson and Lee said there would be two volunteer fairs a year. They are hoping to get more feedback, and prepare an even better one in six months time. "We hope it can keep growing," they said.

The other organizations involved were: Magic Hospital, an international organization from France that brings clown culture to hospitals; DBD, an international deaf development association; Domestic Workers' Project; KEO (<http://www.keo.net.cn>), an organization to study paleontology; China Poverty Alleviation Organization; and Huadan, a self-help organization that aims to help people through performance.

People who want to be volunteers were encouraged to talk with each organization to find ones that matched their interests.

## A chance to learn

Annette Borla, the representative from Magic Hospital, said they have brought clowns to Beijing Children's Hospital since 2003. They believe that clowns can make sick children in hospitals feel relaxed, happy and excited, and distract them from their pain. "It's something very new in China," Borla said.

A foreign teacher from an international school felt the fair was an opportunity for children to learn about this work.

Being a volunteer always makes someone look good. However, taking the plunge and sticking to it is difficult.

Wang Xuejing, a young woman from GTA Travel Agency, has worked as a volunteer before. "Being a volunteer is stressful, and it is not an easy commitment. Therefore, you need to look for



Volunteer-seeking organizations and volunteers chatting and exchanging their ideas

Photos by Annie Wei

one organization that can have something in common with your life so you will be encouraged to work for longer."

Roy Zhang, responsible for volunteers in a project that educates the children of migrant workers, said: "Volunteering is a draining and time-consuming job for anyone. We have to recruit new volunteers once in a while."

**Making volunteer work an attractive option**

To make volunteer work more attractive the organizers were keen to make one point clear: it's not just charity, also an opportunity for young Chinese people to learn.

Domestic Workers Project volunteers are 'interviewers': a job that requires

interviewing one person per week. Volunteers will be trained in research methods and in using the questionnaire. That allows them to do innovative research to for social change, and to practice social research methods.

This sounds like good practice for anyone who wants to pursue a research career.

## The organizers

Nelson and Lee knew each other through a mutual friend. At that time, Nelson was struggling with Hui Ling projects. Through training and rehabilitation, Hui Ling aims to help people with physical and mental disabilities reach their full potential and contribute to society in an active way. The organization

is among a very small group of NGOs in China devoted to this area. Lee, an active participant in Beijing's expat community, said she found many communities were looking for volunteers. They came to the same idea of a 'Volunteer fair,' and decided to hold it together.

A new group of foreign students arrive every fall. "It is a great opportunity to make friends, for both Chinese and foreign young people," Nelson said.

When I asked Nelson how she rated the event, she said it was not bad, "Most of the organizations that came this time are small. They are looking for one or two people, not 20 plus. She was happy to get positive feedback from participants in the event."

## Last of the Mojitos

With summer drawing to a close, an international survey adds insult to injury with lowly Beijing the world's 70th most desirable place to live.

in your own living room? Get a halogen lamp with an oversize bulb, plant it next to your scalp and light 30 joss sticks. Then try this recipe for a very special cold weather cocktail:

White Beijinger:  
bottle cheap Baijiu (3-12Yuan)  
Non dairy creamers  
Half sachet instant coffee  
sachets sugar

Mix the ingredients with a generous shot of Baijiu and reflect, from under your halogen, on how what the White

Beijinger lacks in class, subtlety and 'desirability', it more than makes up for in punch. Much like the city itself, really. Touche, Vancouver?

**Beijing the 70th most desirable place to live?**

"Beijing is not so beautiful, but I love to ride my bicycle here, I can afford a good apartment with good light. I've even taken up Buddhism again."

— Ruggero Rossi, Fashion photographer.

"Apart from the pollution, I like it

here. The dynamism makes up for a lack of cultural variety."

— Rebecca Zafropoulos, Journalist

"I can afford a bigger flat here than I could in Paris. And the people are friendly. There's a sense of freedom and possibility that you don't find elsewhere and won't show up in statistics."

— Jade Charles, Journalist

"I was living in the middle east before, which was much tougher. Beijing has a freshness."

— Olivier Sasportas, Novelist

"In a lot of cases it's a lack of knowledge that gives people a bad impression of Beijing. There are intangibles that can't be measured, like the people's positivity and desire to learn and embrace the future."

— Peter Lyon, Intellectual/Teacher/Celtic fan

"Beijing is a nice place to live, but there are too many English people."

— Maya, 'from India'.

## Community

## Cheesey does it

to Beijing in 2004, I packed up my cheese library and special cheese knives and boards, thinking I would not be using them here. But I had the good fortune to meet Perri Dong, a former professional chef and wonderful food writer, and he convinced me that educating Beijingers about fine cheeses would be a much-needed service! I was skeptical that enough people would be interested, but Perri was right - there's a lot of demand for fine cheese, both among cheese-loving expatriates and Chinese who are interested in foreign cultures."

Karen Nelson, from South Australia, who works for ASC The Fine Wines, revealed the secret of fine wines and cheese. "Despite a common belief, not all cheeses pair well with all wines. The flavors of a cheese will influence the flavors



The simple pleasures of bread and cheese

Photo by Zhen Ying

of a wine, and vice versa. Therefore, the aim when pairing cheese with wine is to keep the flavors balanced and harmonious. A cheese will contain one or more of the five basic tastes: sweet, sour, salty, bitter and savory, and these dominant tastes will have a profound effect on the taste of a wine. For example, sweeter cheeses (e.g. camembert) generally reduce the aromas of a wine, and accentuate bitterness and tannins. Therefore a lighter style wine with soft tannins and crisp flavors will suit best."

Sharon believes that her cheese society will attract more local Beijingers to share the tasting experience. "Since they like such strong food as Choudoufu, Chinese people can summon the courage to taste strong cheese!"

## Joining the society:

Join the society by sending Sharon an email at [sruwart@gmail.com](mailto:sruwart@gmail.com) and requesting to be put on the email list for the monthly tasting nights. The nights are limited to about 30 people, on a first-come, first-served basis. Sharon also does specialty tasting nights on request around town at cost, and welcomes inquiries.

## BJ'S LOVE & HATE

## Hair revolutionaries

By Niall O Murchadha

Foreigners have traditionally encountered a mental block when trying to give a physical description of Asian people. The sentence usually begins with "he has black hair..."

Fortunately for us foreigners, Chinese people have taken matters into their own hands, and in a very short period of time. The blistering pace of changes in hairstyles is just one lovable part of the speeding-bullet-culture that we see all around us.

When I arrived in Beijing two years ago, there appeared to be fairly rigid social mores concerning hair coloring. Women would color their hair, but only in dark colors, and if you saw a guy with dyed hair it was a safe bet that he was a hairdresser. When I asked several Chinese girls why there were no blondes, the answer seemed a tad conservative. "Chinese girls do not dye their hair blonde. Only South Korean girls do that."

However, like the first blossoms of spring, a few girls started to appear with the odd blonde streak through their hair. This first batch of "daring" girls heralded the beginning of a hair revolution in the capital. The hardcore elements of this revolution have gone a step further, and now if you see a blonde walking in front of you in the street there is no guarantee that she is a foreigner.

The new generation of Chinese men also seems to be departing from traditional attitudes to changing their hair color. While the older generation of Chinese men are only concerned about removing any traces of white hair, their younger counterparts have their own ideas about what is appropriate. Subtle changes to hair color seem to be appropriate for the trendy thirtysomethings. As for the twenty-somethings and the teenage males, it seems that anything goes.

I was getting the bus to work yesterday, and I saw this Chinese guy. Shall I describe him? The top of his hair was dyed a bright red and combed upwards towards the sky. The back and sides of his head were shaved, except for a small blonde ponytail at the base of his neck. The first word that came to mind was 'cock'. But perhaps the most interesting thing was that, as he sped past on his bike, I, the lone foreigner on the bus, was the only one who was staring.

## Don't panic! consult the Insider's Guide

By Niall O Murchadha

The Insider's Guide to Beijing (2005-2006) is the guide book every long-term *laowai* wishes was around when they came to Beijing, and the one anyone new to the city will come to rely on as their Beijing Bible.

As the title suggests, the Insider's Guide has an edge over its rivals because it is compiled by people who call Beijing home and is aimed at foreigners who plan to stay longer than a fortnight.

Its inbuilt expiration date acknowledges the mercurial nature of the subject matter. Generally, guide books are out of date as soon as they hit the shops; in Beijing they are obsolete as soon as the editor finishes the final corrections before going to print. Containing 650 new photos and revised text, his second edition updates its predecessor in a number of areas, most noticeably nightlife. The end of Sanlitun South Street and the rise of Wu Dao Kou are dutifully covered, and the whole 'scene' has a healthy overview.

Everything you might expect from a guide book is covered, including a useful Business and Work section and Adult Education. A map of current and future subway lines is very helpful. One drawback is that the back and front covers feature maps covering the same area. Areas north of the Fourth Ring, most notably Wu Dao Kou, are off the map. One is left surmising that 'there be dragons here'.

The 120 sidebars are sharp, helpful features that give concise information and reasonable explanations for light and heavy topics. The sections are color coded and easy on the eye, making dipping in less of a chore. Compared to the prices of other guide books, the 60 yuan price tag of this 700 page book seems quite reasonable.

By Gareth George

Cocktail season is over. Rooftops are once again for keeping the weather out. Drinks, like the nights, are getting darker. Expect to see street hawkers needily eulogizing fresh mint and Worcester sauce. The smart money bought up the '10 pairs of socks for 50 Yuan' in June.

Maybe the Economist Intelligence Unit, who recently named Beijing the world's 70th 'most' desirable place to live, had our winter in mind. 70th most desirable? If you do make a final trip to a rooftop beer garden this month, try telling your amour they are the '70th most desirable person' you have ever seen and see how far that gets you.

Vancouver topped the list; has no one told them gloomy skies are atmospheric? It will get cold here though, and when the weather forces you to barricade yourself in your chilly, carpetless flat, why not recreate Beijing summer

By Lynda Monsoon

Somebody says that cheese is like opera: once you love it you love to the bottom of your heart. Just before the National Day Holiday, Sharon Ruwart welcomed her guests to her Beijing Cheese Society to share the milky feast coupled with the best wine. It was truly a world of cheese. The cheese provided was not those sliced rubber items found in the supermarket, but the real thing. As one of the guests, Kiryan Pierson, from the US, says, cheese tastes wholesome. "In America, we use the word 'wholesome' to mean 'good' in an abstract and high way," said Pierson. "Its dictionary definition is 'characteristic of physical or moral well-being,' but this is too high. In common use it describes certain kinds of very typical food, people, and activities," explained Pierson.

Sharon Ruwart discovered a genetic affinity with cheese when she spent a summer in Paris at the age of eighteen. Since then she has been giving cheese tasting sessions in California for years.

"When I moved with my family



When you're winning, you feel like the sun shines out of your...



## There's no stopping Beijing



A chaser motorbike gets ready to follow the runners.



Runners of all categories, including this bare-footed man, set off from Tian'anmen Square.



Spectators cheer on a Kenyan runner.



Participants silhouetted in the clear morning sky.

By Simon Lim

The clear blue sky and crisp morning air promised a fine day for the Beijing International Marathon on October 16. Around 30,000 runners came together for China's top marathon, and the biggest sports event held here since the outbreak of SARS. The route would wind its way round Tian'anmen Square, through the bustling city and climax at the National Olympic Center.

The grueling 42 km race attracted people of various backgrounds, with most competing for fun while a few vied for the top prizes. One even ran bare-footed! Spectators turned out in droves to encourage and cheer on the runners. The organizers have also added a celebrity and a children's run, 10 and 5-kilometers respectively, to the full and half marathons. Sponsor Nike's slogan "No Stopping, Beijing" underlines the capital's preparation for the 2008 Olympics.

The atmosphere at the National Olympic Center was ecstatic. Spectators eagerly waited to see who would cross the line first. Kenyan Benson Cheronu was declared men's champion while China's Sun Yingjie took the women's top prize for the third year in a row.



A time car leads the runners from the Elite Women's Full Marathon class.



Kenyan Benson Cheronu crosses the finish line.



Chinese Sun Yingjie wins the Elite Women's title.



Hooray! I'm still alive!

This page is looking for freelance photographers. Experience and professionalism are not a must. We want your own perspective and views about Beijing. If you have any work that may interest us, please contact sunming@ynet.com, or call at 65902523.



# Softer minimalism recycled

By Shelley Xie

When minimalism was last dominant in the mid 1990s, there was a sober and serious atmosphere. Then, the austere cold lines of Jil Sander, the early frocks of Miuccia Prada, and the neutral sweaters and black trouser suits of Calvin Klein and Donna Karan were all the rage.

But this fall, young and protean women, who have been familiar with the boho style, the beading, the layers and the frills, are expecting something new without discarding too much. So minimalism is recycled as new minimalism: something that is well-cut, luxurious and extremely grown-up.

On the catwalks in London and New York, designers make the clothes less fussy, but not altogether unflattering. They describe the new look as softer, warmer and less serious.

Roland Mouret, the young British designer whose recent show boasted Scarlett Johansson and Trudie Styler in the front row, is one of the best advocates of new minimalism. Mouret favors simple, shapely and super-feminine clothes: long, lean below-the-knee skirts with kick pleats, tailored jackets accessorized with fabric folded in an origami fashion, and sleekly-draped gowns made of fluid silk.

Edit is the term used by Susanne Tide-Frater, the creative director of Harrods, to define her understanding of the new trends. It is a reaction to the overdose of colors, prints and layers. The shift from color and print to silhouette and form can be seen on the horizon, according to Tide-Frater. "All that fuss around the puffball was because of our growing interest in shape, outline and proportion," she said, "But it's not the same as minimalism – it's much softer than that."

Jasper Conran believes times are changing. "When you're a designer, you have to accept that sometimes it's your time, and sometimes it's not," reasoned Conran, whose show abounds with shapely, simple and precisely cut dresses. "I like the form and shape and craft of making clothes; I have an academic interest in the cut. The rest is just periphery, just styling. Right now, I have a feeling that the pendulum is swinging back in my direction."

Matthew Williamson, the king of boho this summer, showed a collection where butterfly-wing colors were sliced between pristine white city shorts and plain black blouses. He admits that things are moving on to something slicker and sharper, more womanly and less girly.

The art of minimalism seems the biggest source to inspiration for designers. When making his recent collections, British designer Giles Deacon looked at the art of Frank Stella, a minimalist painter. The clean and pure lines of 17th century nuns' and cardinals' robes are in Stefano Pilati's current collection for Yves Saint Laurent, shown in Paris in March.

There isn't a ruffle or a flounce of lace in the crowd. But there is still room for a nudge and a wink, rather than the scrubbed-clean frugality of pure minimalism. The bow ties, lacy flounces and bric-a-brac are getting smaller.

The trend of minimalism has made a comeback. Having worked in fashion for several decades, Joan Burstein knows better than most that these things go in cycles. "I've been here before, so I could see this happening a while ago. The change has already started this autumn: younger women are being introduced to clothes that are cleaner, more grown up."



Donna Karan  
2006 Spring



Roland Mouret  
2006 Spring



Alexander McQueen 2005 Fall

## Hollywood eco-warrior

By Shelley Xie

Actor and environmentalist Edward Norton has been following in his father's footsteps, both metaphorically and literally.

Norton is in China to shoot *The Painted Veil*, co-starring Naomi Watts. His father, Edward Norton Sr., worked as a director for five years on the Yunnan Great River conservation project. Engaged in environmental issues like his father, Norton fights on the front lines to protect the eco-system.

Norton sticks to his principles, with no exceptions. His character in *Rounders* (1998) was originally supposed to smoke, but avid nonsmoker Edward would not. "I don't smoke and I don't want to smoke. I'm not a fan of gratuitous smoking in films."

Believe it or not, Norton doesn't actually own a car. Living in New York, his regular form of transportation is the subway. "If I ever have to stop taking the subway, I'm gonna have a heart attack," he joked.

"I'm renovating a little extension on my home in NY and have been exploring what's available in terms of recycled and reused materials. My brother is hounding me to try to make my garden around my house in LA less water-intensive. So my next step is to try more native-species, or a dry-climate garden."

From 2003, Edward teamed up with BP, the oil giant and solar-panel producer, to develop the Solar Neighbors Program. It aims to get photovoltaic panels onto many homes, especially low-income houses in LA. His star power generates support from other stars, including Brad Pitt, Salma Hayek and Danny DeVito. Within the first year of the program, dozens of solar installations were sent to inner-city families.



Photo by Carlo Allegri

## Simple and environmental home decor

By Shelley Xie

The environmental tremors on the catwalk may soon be felt not just in our wardrobes, but all over our houses.

Where fashion designers tread first, interiors tend to follow. So while we keep our eyes on the models, remember to pay attention to trends on current simple and environmental home decor.

**Fresh Fat**

By Tom Dixon (UK)

Plastic pollutes the environment, but Tom makes a collection of chairs, bowls and a coffee table made from extruded and hand-woven plastic, finding a safe and recyclable use for it.



**Scenario C (Carbon)**

By Storck (Germany)

This carbon fiber bicycle is from Storck. The whole frame weighs less than one kilogram with clear sloping top tube geometry. The specially-designed handlebar weighs only 200 grams, providing extra comfort for the rider.



**Reunification Project**

By Pascal Anson (UK)

London-based Pascal's reunification project includes serving tables and wooden chairs. He processes similar but unrelated objects into new, matching sets. More surprisingly, he makes ceramic pieces that are fixed by a gold correction where faults occurs. This series is an interesting and unique way of looking at recycling.



**Colorado House**

By Stephanie Forsythe, Todd MacAllen (Canada)

Solar-powered house with a horse stall – this is low impact energy efficient living. This open plan house has a truncated roof peak capped along its entire length by a wide glass strip. The house is clad with green pine boards, which create a wide air space buffering the building against extreme heat and cold.



**3D Wallpaper**

By Jaime Salm, Esther Chung (US)

The three-dimensional wallpaper is molded from 100% recycled waste paper. Embracing the principle of sustainable design, Jaime and Esther products showcase the 'green' in everyday life.



**Felt Chair**

By Brent Cordner (US)

Felt is a chair made entirely of natural and biodegradable materials. It has a steel frame with a simple construction, covered with layered felt. It is finished off with naturally-dyed leather.



Do you know of a new fashion trend or live an interesting lifestyle? We invite you to share it with us at yushanshan724@ynet.com. Please write "Fashion" in the subject field.



# Ancient horsemen fund tomorrow's minds

By Zhou Ying

A caravan of 120 horses and mules and 43 horsemen have journeyed 4,000 kilometers while raising 1,280,000 yuan for charity. The Hope Project will use the funds to build more than 20 primary schools.

Crowds turned out to see the horse team, who raised the money selling traditional Chinese tea and telling ancient stories of their ancestors. The horses and mules were each loaded with 50 kilograms of Puer tea when they began the journey on May 1 this year.

It is the first time a horse team has followed a route similar to the "Tea and Horse Road" since the Qing dynasty, some 166 years ago.

Beijing residents rushed around to meet the heroes when they arrived in Beijing Badachu Park last Friday. Wearing colorful national costume, the team members were proud to tell the crowd their stories.

Yang Jinrong, the head horsemen, said that he had never been in Beijing before; however his ancestors walk to Beijing every year to pay Puer tea as tribute to the emperor.

## On the way

The horsemen of the Yunnan caravan come from 11 minorities. They left Puer county in Yunnan province to start their journey through six provinces: Sichuan, Shaanxi, Shanxi, Hebei and Beijing.

As the horse team walked nearer to the public who waited at the gate of the park, their sun-tanned skin and dirty clothes made it easy to imagine how harsh the conditions were.

In order to show respect to history, the travelers imitated the traditional costumes and customs. Yang said that all the horsemen lived in the tent at night, and usually they could not take showers.

"We have not taken a shower since Sichuan province, because we saw fewer lakes and rivers," a horseman said.

Yang said that 120 horses and mules left Yunnan, but only 115 remain. "We divided them into six groups. Two died shortly after we left Yunnan province; two passed away when we entered Shaanxi, and one was adopted by people we met because it got sick."

The team was warmly welcomed wherever they passed. "The public gave us fruit and vegetables; the local traffic police helped us clear the way, and cars and buses waited for us to go first," horseman Cai Guorong said.

However, the long journey was not always smooth, sometimes it was quite dangerous. 54-year old horsemen Yang Zixiang was hit by a car in Huangling County in Shaanxi Province. He and his horse died in the incident.

"We actually can understand how hard the ancient people were," Cai said.

In order to welcome all the heroes, Beijing Bardachu Park organized a group of more than ten volunteers to help the horsemen halter the horses.

Yang Ruowei, one of the volunteers said that he still could not believe that he would see the horse team today. "I had been a member of the horsemen in the past when I was in Yunnan Province. I thought I would not see the team for the rest of my life."

## Ancient tea and horse road

For thousands of years, there were 18 ancient roads trodden by foot and hoof in the mountains of Southwest China, bridging the Chinese hinterland and other places such as Tibet and Beijing.

Along the unpaved and often rugged roads, tea, salt and sugar flowed into cities, with horses, cows, furs, musk and other local products. The ancient commercial passage, dubbed the "Ancient



A horseman at Badachu park

Photo by Lou Qiyong

Tea and Horse Road", first appeared during the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

Among all the tea and horse roads, the most famous one is from Yunnan to Tibet. The road stretched more than 4,000 kilometers, mainly in Southwest China's Sichuan and Yunnan provinces and the Tibetan Autonomous Region.

Just as the Silk Road, the Ancient Tea and Horse Road disappeared with the dawn of modern civilization, both routes have played very important roles in the development of China. Different Chinese ethnic cultures, such as the Dai, Yi, Han, Bai, Naxi and Tibetans, have met, fused and developed along the historic road.

According to Tibetan classics, people of the Tibetan ethnic group in western Sichuan Province and northwestern Yunnan Province had access to famous types of tea from the Central Plains during the Tang Dynasty. In the Song Dynasty (960-1279), people of Yunnan and Sichuan provinces exchanged tea for Tibetan horses.

The recent journey selected the north path of the ancient Tea and Horse Roads, which stretched from Yunnan to Beijing.

The Yunnan horse team carried tea from Yunnan Province to Beijing as tribute to the emperor every year. Puer tea had been an imperial favorite since the Qing Dynasty. The horse teams stopped

in 1938 when the team was confronted by robbers.

## Yunnan: Tea source

Tea is a popular and traditional drink for people in over 100 countries.

Yunnan is famed as the hometown of tea, having a production history of 1,700 years. The tea planting area in Yunnan is very large: 92 percent of the counties in Yunnan grow it.

Puer tea is the favorite tea of Yunnan Province. It was named after its area — Puer County.

Unlike other varieties of tea, Puer tea is traditionally made with older leaves (not the first flush or budding leaves) from tall and old trees. These trees are of a type only found in Yunnan Province, known as broad leaf tea.

The leaves are covered with fine hairs, and are larger than others. They have a different chemical composition. The leaves are left green or moderately fermented before being dried.

Often the tea is formed into cakes or bricks, wrapped in paper or pomello rinds, and stored outside exposed to moisture, air, and heat in order to further mature. Then the tea is stored underground for several years before taking on the darker, mellower characteristics that makes Puer tea.

## Late for work? Blame Korea

By Lou Li

Song Feifei, a Beijing office worker, was late for work several times recently. She blames a 2003 Korean TV soap, *Dae Jang Geum*, on Hunan Satellite Television. "I watch it every day till midnight. Then it is hard for me to arrive at the office at 9 am the next day." She is not alone.

In the last two years, MBC, the company which produces the show, has won the highest ratings in South Korean television history at 54 percent, and it has been sweeping much of the Chinese-speaking world: not just Hong Kong and Taiwan but also Chinese communities in San Francisco and Chicago, as well as Malaysia.

On the mainland, *Dae Jang Geum* received an encouraging average rating of 8.6 percent on its September 1 debut. It has been the best received new show in China's 12 biggest cities.

Chinese viewers started to switch on to South Korean soaps in 1997 when CCTV aired *What is Love?* At one point, there were 200 phone calls demanding it be re-shown. Last year, *Miss Mermaid*, another Korean TV series, saw miraculous ratings. It was aired after midnight, which usually attracts few viewers.

Japan, Vietnam and many other Asian countries also have the Korean soap bug. An article from a Japanese newspaper said, "Korean actor Bae Yong-joon did what his countrymen have dreamed of: He conquered Japan." Bae Yong-joon is the hero of a Korean TV drama called *Winter Sonata*, which scored huge ratings with Japanese fans, including Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.

So why the Korean phenomenon? Most Asian countries share Confucian ideals, and Korean culture stresses nonviolence. Also the quality of Korean culture and communications has increased sharply in recent years. Fans embrace Korean culture because it conveys universal Asian sentiments in sophisticated packages.

A scholar from Hong Kong said that *Dae Jang Geum* is a political declaration of South Korea's rise in East Asia and a cultural ID card for Korea. He believes its aim is to compete with China for the right to explain the essence of Confucianism.

It seems Korea is re-packaging Confucius for resale in his own country. Liu Changle of Phoenix TV said, "What South Korea does is to sell the es-

sence of our culture to us. It is as if the user is charging the inventor."

Yin Hong, a professor with Tsinghua University explained, "Chinese culture and Korean culture overlap in many ways, which lays the foundation for mutual communication. Compared with Korean pop culture, which early on borrowed elements of Western culture, Chinese pop culture lacks originality, a weak point at which Korean pop culture breaks through."

"Of course I know the pure perfect love conceived in South Korean TV dramas is impossible in reality. But I just can not stop dreaming about it," said Chen Ying, a big fan in her twenties who indulges in South Korean romances day and night. "Compared to the instant love in Western movies and TV dramas and even in contemporary Chinese ones, I prefer the implicit way of love in South Korean dramas," she added.

"Korea Wave" helps us to discover a new market demand," Phoenix TV's Liu Changle said, "The audience are actually longing for products featuring traditional culture. But what we have provided is monotonous."

Despite the traditional cultural atmosphere featuring truth, goodness, fidelity, solidarity and patriotism, the success of South Korean drama also owes much to technique, screenplay writing, genre distinctiveness and popular stars, all areas in which Chinese productions lag behind. The Korean Prime Minister once said in an interview with CCTV that "Korean TV producers regard TV drama as art. They pursue perfection."

In contrast, whenever you turn on the TV, you find it brimming with Chinese dramas which are concerned with conspiracies, corruption, crime and indecent affairs, or ancient dynasties. On September 12, *China's People's Daily* reported that several TV dramas were denied a license due to their lowbrow themes and low quality production. Most of these TV dramas were about royal families' private lives.

Perhaps Chinese TV focuses too much on local issues, instead of taking a broader view of humanity. "However, it's only by adopting a universal perspective that a TV drama can attract people from different backgrounds," said Zhang Chen, a college student who turned his interest in TV into his major.



Lee Young-ae as the title role in Dae Jang Geum

Do you know of a good show, exhibition or other cultural event in Beijing? Please let us know at yushanshan724@ynet.com. Please write "Culture" in the subject field.

## Tea House quenches thirst for politics



Left to right, Yang Lixin, Liang Guanhua and Pu Cunxin

Photo by Li Yan

By Yu Shanshan

There is a common characteristic in every Beijinger's blood. This city has been the seat of power in China for six centuries; even the taxi drivers would rather talk politics than about how Yao Ming's latest match went.

That's maybe why *Tea House*, produced by the People's Art Theatre, is so beloved by Beijingers. That's also the reason why in the winter of

the drama season, the company still dares to raise its admission (as high as 680 yuan) and gets a 90 percent attendance every night.

A notice is posted on the stage — the Yutai Tea House — reminding the characters that talking about politics is not allowed. But the whole play, written by prominent Chinese writer and playwright Lao She and premiered in 1958, is about politics — the question of what will

save China: reform or revolution?

The play was a milestone for the People's Art Theatre, established in 1952. This time, they stage the original version directed by Jiao Juyin, another famous Chinese playwright. The version stopped being shown in 1992. In 1999, drama director Lin Zhaoxia produced a new version, which received mixed reviews. "*Tea House* set the tone for the theatre," Ma Xin said before the play began.

*Tea House* offers us a tunnel that leads to a rich picture of old Beijing. As a narrator finishes a short introduction, curtains open, the bustle of an 1898 teahouse overwhelms the stage.

The three-act drama spans from 1898, the last days of the Qing Empire to 1918, when the Nationalists (Kuomintang) and warlords reigned the land, to 1948, the end of Kuomintang and the rise of communism. In a teahouse run by Wang Lifa, different people come and go, some are generous, some mean, brave or weak, all trying to survive in their own way.

The three elaborate props real-

istically restore the teahouse over three generations. The reproduction of the old *Tea House*, according to Lin Zhaoxia, the director, is a step-by-step learning process. Since June, actors watched DVDs of the old version, consulted the actors who took part, and rehearsed and researched act after act.

"The learning and repeating is trying to answer the problem that we have neglected for a long time — what's the real treasure of People's Art Theatre?" Lin said.

"This time we want to recover the spirit of Jiao Juyin's drama, which doesn't simply stop at Chinese realism. One characteristic of Jiao's creation is the way it instills the beauty of traditional Chinese opera into Stanislavski's drama system, and throughout the whole performance, which makes the stage flow. We want to promote a Chinese school of drama."

*Tea House* will tour the United States. The English subtitles were translated by Ying Ruocheng, the actor (*The Last Emperor*) and drama translator.

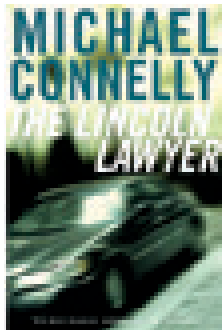


**Bestseller booklists 3rd week Oct.**

By Jia Ting

**US – New York Times Bestsellers**

1. *The Lincoln Lawyer*, by Michael Connelly

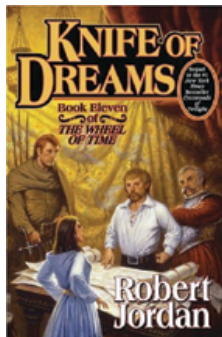


(A Los Angeles criminal defense attorney takes a case that proves more complicated and dangerous than he expected.)

2. *Blue Smoke*, by Nora Roberts
3. *A Breath of Snow and Ashes*, by Diana Gabaldon
4. *Son of A Witch*, by Gregory Maguire
5. *The March*, by E.L. Doctorow

**Amazon.com Bestsellers**

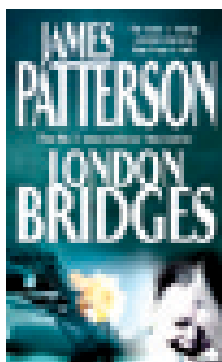
1. *A Million Little Pieces* (Oprah's Book Club), by James Frey
2. *The Year of Magical Thinking*, by Joan Didion
3. *The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century*, by Thomas L. Friedman
4. *The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini
5. *Knife of Dreams* (The Wheel of Time, Book 11), by Robert Jordan



(The eleventh volume of that most colossal contemporary fantasy saga, *The Wheel of Time*, develops in preparation for the next and final volume.)

**UK – The Guardian Bestsellers**

1. *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown
2. *London Bridges*, by James Patterson



(Alex Cross is on vacation when he gets the call: a city in Nevada has been annihilated and the Russian super-criminal known as the Wolf is claiming responsibility.)

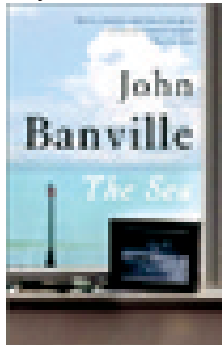
3. *Angels and Demons*, by Dan Brown
4. *Going Postal*, by Terry Pratchett
5. *Always and Forever*, by Cathy Kelly

**France – Fnac.com Bestsellers**

1. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (French Version), by J.K. Rowling
2. *XIII, T17 – L'Or de Maximilien* (XIII, T17 – The Gold of Maximilien), by Vance and Van Hamme
3. *Le Souffle des Dieux* (The Souffle of Gods), by Bernard Werber
4. *Largo Winch, T14 – La Loi du Dollar* (Largo Winch, T14 – The Law of Dollar), by Bernard Werber
5. *Les Charmes Discrets de La Vie Conjugale* (Secret Charms of The Couple Life), by Douglas Kennedy and Bernard Cohen

**Germany – Amazon.de Bestsellers**

1. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (German Version), by J.K. Rowling
2. *The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown
3. *The Sea*, by John Banville



4. *A Feast for Crows*, by George R.R. Martin
5. *Born to Cook II*, by Tim Malzer

**China – Joyo.com Bestsellers**

1. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* (Chinese Version), by J.K. Rowling
2. *Eat Your Head Off – 60 Recipes for Lazy People*, by Saba
3. *Decipher The Dream of Red Chamber*, by Liu Xinwu
4. *Don't Just Do What You Are Told To, Do What You Need To*, by Bob Nelson
5. *A Bowl of Buckwheat Noodle*, by Li Liangping

# Ba Jin dies at 101

By Dong Nan

Ba Jin, one of the greatest contemporary Chinese novelists, died in Huadong Hospital, Shanghai aged 101.

He was born on November 25 1904 in Chengdu, Sichuan, into a wealthy family. He received a broad education in his hometown. In 1923, he moved to Shanghai, and then to Nanjing where he entered the preparatory school affiliated with the Southeast China University. During two-years study he wrote and translated several articles on anarchism.

In 1927, he went to France, where he wrote his debut novel *Destruction* about a depressed young anarchist. His pen name, Ba Jin, was chosen from the Chinese transliterations of the first syllable of the name Bakunin and of the last syllable of the name Kropotkin, two Russian anarchists he admired. He returned to Shanghai in 1929 and became a serious writer.

During the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression (1937-1945), while drifting from place to place, Ba Jin finished his representative work *Torrent Trilogy*



Ba Jin in his 90s

(*Family, Spring, and Autumn*) (1931-1940). *Family* is the most well-known, attacking the traditional Chinese family structure and depicting the struggles and tragedies, love and hatred of the young generation in the family's decline. He also wrote other works including the novellas *Ward Four* and *Garden of Repose* and the well-known novel *Cold Nights*. From 1966 to 1976, the turbulent "Cultural Revolution" swept across China. Along with many other renowned scholars and writers, Ba Jin was persecuted. By accident, he got hold of Italian poet Dante Alighieri's *Divine Comedy* and

secretly copied out the *Divine Comedy-Hell* by hand. In the daytime, either laboring in the fields or receiving mass criticism, he silently read the poem. Reciting Dante's words gave Ba Jin the courage to struggle through hard times. Actually, Ba Jin's "predestined relationship" with Dante lasted long after the Cultural Revolution finished. In 1982 his achievements won him the Dante International Prize.

The major work of his later years is an essay collection: *Random Thoughts*, composed between 1978 and 1986, in which he discusses the Cultural Revolution.

## Old rebel gets the Nobel



By Chun Wang

Harold Pinter is still recovering from throat cancer and unexpected Nobel fever. At 75, the old master of the drama is more ready than ever to be a rebel with a pause. Playwright turned full-time political activist, he has a new collection of war hymns, *Death etc.*, released by Grove press this month, that will further justify Pinter's new role as the moral compass of the political stage.

Last Thursday, the Swedish academy surprised the literary community with its choice of Pinter as the winner of 2005 Nobel Prize for literature, and praised him for restoring the play as an art form. He is one of just a handful of playwrights who have captured the literary world's top prize in its 102-year history and the first since Italian Dario Fo in 1997.

In recent years, Pinter has turned his acerbic eye toward US foreign policy and British Government support for it. He has been a fierce critic of the Iraq conflict and has represented his feelings through a series of anti-war poems published in 2003 under the title *WAR*, which won him the Wilfred Owen award.



## Harry Potter 6 is a muggle mess

By Wang Xiaoyuan

The Chinese version of *Harry Potter 6* hasn't been greeted warmly by wizard loving local readers. After a two year wait, the disappointment is as welcome as a hug from a dementor.

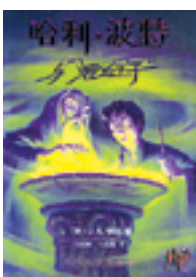
It's sad to say that the translators, Ma Aixin and her sister Ma Ainong, represent the rather slow kind of muggle who not only fail to understand magic, but also what we love about our favorite wizards. Were they so fascinated by our young hero that they ignored his weaknesses at the age of sixteen,

as an orphan with a fragmentary personality facing an unusual world? The Ma sisters' Potter comes across more like Superman than a pubescent British schoolboy.

Some characters who make us laugh are rather dull in this version. Mrs. Weasley reads like the hostess of a cheap motel, not the jumpy funny mother who has the most impossible boys in the world of wizardry. And we readers have known Snape since Harry arrived

at Hogwarts. Is this greasy murmuring non-entity really the same man who made the unbreakable vow?

Language is not culture or style. Even if the Ma sisters translated every word correctly (I am sure they didn't), they don't enter the heart of the boy at the story's core. Perhaps like overprotective parents, they want to shield Harry and his readers from the shadows that hang increasingly heavily over the series...

**Review**

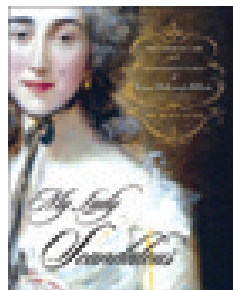
By Wang Chun

**A Man Without a Country**  
By Kurt Vonnegut

Seven Stories Press; 146 pages

Very brief essays, displaying indignant humanism, pacifism and generosity of spirit made Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse-Five* a touchstone of the Vietnam War era. Whether called essays, stories or "an autobiographical collage," the book may estrange readers born too late to remember Vonnegut's heyday as an affable literary crank. In his first book since 1999, it's just like old times as Vonnegut (now 82) makes with the deeply black humor in this collection of articles written over the last five years, many from the alternative magazine *In These Times*. This illustrated collection reflects the author's alarm and disgust at what he regards as the subversion of the democratic process by, and the manipulative deceptions of, the Bush administration.

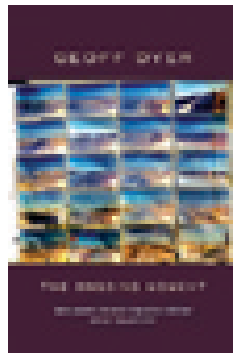
(Village Voice)

**My Lady Scandalous: The Amazing Life and Outrageous Times of Grace Dalrymple Elliott**  
By Jo Manning

Simon &amp; Schuster; 432 pages

This book will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about an 18th-century courtesan, and then some. It rambles from tidbits to tedium with family chronologies sandwiched between accounts of the life and times of courtesans. Ms. Manning writes in the florid language of the romance novelist she is. Based on the Englishwoman's posthumously published memoir of surviving the Reign of Terror in Paris, the book explores the life and times of the notorious English courtesan Grace Dalrymple Elliott. At 17, the lovely Dalrymple married a dull doctor more than twice her age, and after a sordid divorce, galloped through a series of lovers ranging from rogues to peers of the realm including the Prince of Wales, who may have fathered her child.

(Washington Times)

**The Ongoing Moment**  
By Geoff Dyer

Little Brown, 320 pages

Geoff Dyer has long been labeled one of Britain's cleverest writers, and here that tag seems to become positively burdensome as he rushes hither and thither producing a great deluge of knowledge in the book. Dyer begins his book about photography with a set of lists. The first is one made by the Argentine writer Borges. The second list is drawn up by the poet Walt Whitman; the third by the photographer Walker Evans, and the fourth by Roy Stryker, the man in charge of commissioning photographers to record the great American Depression. To Dyer these lists cover the development of photography in America but it is not going to be a history in any usual sense.

(Telegraph)

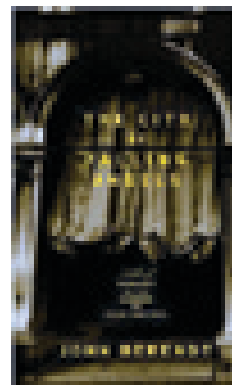
**The Explorer's Eye: First-Hand Accounts of Adventure and Exploration**

Edited by Fergus Fleming and Annabel Merullo  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 264 pages



In the book, Editors Fergus Fleming and Annabel Merullo have assembled 54 eyewitness accounts of exploration, from the first white landing in Australia to the first footstep on the moon. Sensibly, they have chosen a mix of the familiar – Darwin, Livingstone, Younghusband – with the less well known, including John Stephens, who uncovered the fabulous lost cities of central America. However graphic the text, it is the illustrations that bring this volume alive. Pre-photographic travelers produced copious sketches, paintings and drawings, often of startling beauty. The oil painting of one of Captain Cook's officers trading with a Maori is a wonderfully ironic comment on first contact.

(The Guardian)

**The City of Falling Angels**  
By John Berendt  
Penguin Press, 416 pages

In the book, John Berendt does justice to an exalted Los Angeles that has rightly fascinated the likes of Henry James, Robert Browning and many filmmakers throughout the world. In the first, the through-line of the book was murder; here, it's a mysterious fire that guts an opera house. The historic La Fenice theater "in the heart of Venice" burned to the ground on the night of Jan. 29, 1996; after a succession of false investigative starts and bureaucratic tangles and scandals, it reopened about eight years later, and the book follows that narrative arc. Once again, the bricks and mortar of a city – grand mansions and salons – engage Berendt's attention and compel his eye. It's an eye for vivid detail, accompanied by an ear attuned to gossip.

(Los Angeles Times)

**The Complete Calvin and Hobbes**

By Bill Watterson  
Andres McMeel, 1,456 PAGES; 3 Vol.



At a time when merchandising and hype often count for more than substance, Bill Watterson's Calvin and Hobbes achieved its popularity solely through the printed page. It remains the most popular and highly praised comic strip to appear in newspapers since Peanuts premiered in 1950. The book offers a testament to Watterson's dedication and to the medium's ability to keep reinventing itself against all odds. Reliving the adventures in this new collection is like visiting a childhood friend who moved away and took the fun with him. The humor still feels fresh, in part because the excesses Watterson satirized have grown even more absurd in the past 10 years. At almost 8 pounds apiece, the three books have to be propped on a table to read, but that's a minor quibble.

(San Francisco Gate)





A large wooden bowl used to make kava

#### Kokoda: traditional and popular Fijian seafood

Unsurprisingly, seafood is the most common dish in Fiji. While other island peoples enjoy the taste of fresh fish, Fijians prefer a salty flavor. Among the various seafood dishes, Kokoda is the most popular. The fish is marinated in lemon/lime juice then squeezed and garnished with onions, chillies, shallots, grated carrots, tomatoes and combined with a thick coconut cream. Usually, it is served chilled. Another favorite item on the table is turtle meat, normally eaten at a formal dinner or festival. "We use lemon juice all the time when cooking seafood; this is a typical Fijian style and our special way of keeping the dish scrumptious," Mrs. Salote said.

#### Kava: mysterious Fijian "national drink"

Perhaps nothing reflects the Fijians' reverence for tradition like Kava drinking. Visit any Fijian village or home, particularly at the weekend, and you may see a family sitting on the floor around a large wooden bowl filled with a muddy-looking liquid. You will then be asked, "E dua na bilo?" ("Would you like a cup?"). The drink is prepared from the pulverized root of Piper methysticum, a plant from the pepper family. A mild narcotic, it has a tingly numbing effect on the tongue and is used to aid sleep. The drinking ritual is very interesting: first, clap once to show you respect to the guest, then drink the kava without in one, say "maca" (means empty) and, finally, clap three times. The drink is known

## Ding Ding Xiang Hotpot: Beautiful, but not so spicy



By Cam MacMurchy

If you are looking for a hot pot restaurant with some extra panache, Ding Ding Xiang would be it. Located near the East Gate Plaza, the outside of the restaurant resembles an upscale nightclub with neon lights and poles around a giant patio. And the patio comes in handy – when we arrived on a Friday night eight people were standing there waiting for a table.

The Beijing-style hot pot restaurant boasts the usual favorites, but branches out with delicacies like goose liver and assorted meat plates, and offers a wide selection of mushrooms. But the key isn't what is being served, but how.

The chefs at Ding Ding Xiang make presentation a priority. The meat dishes are elegantly served on glass plates with flowers and other garnishes, while the assorted mushrooms were served in a martini glass. The kelp was rolled tightly and served over a bed of white rice on top of a stylized square plate with a flower garnish.

If you are a fan of spicy hot pot, this might not be the place for you. The restaurant offers three different broths, none of which are spicy. But once you have boiled your favorite meat you have four dipping sauces from which to choose.

Ding Ding Xiang also mixes it up with a small western menu. After dinner, you can indulge in one of their many fruit smoothies. If you prefer a coffee, you can order from a small selection of mochas and lattes.

The food was fresh and delicious, and the dipping sauces were a nice twist. But as a fan of spicy hot pot, it didn't quite pack enough of a punch. That said, if you're looking for an upscale hot pot restaurant that's ideal for a date, Ding Ding Xiang is the place. Just be prepared for a wait.

**Where:** Building14, F1 Dongzhimen Dongzhongjie **Open:** 11 am – 10:30 pm **Tel:** 6417 2546 **Average cost:** 80 yuan per person



Tofu



Sliced lamb



Fish balls

Photos by Fay Xie

# Fijian floor food



A seafood medley by Mrs. Salote L Waqanisau

By Han Manman

Fiji is composed of 330 islands in the South Pacific. It is a cultural crossroads, and this cultural mix can be found in its cooking. In general, native Fijians and the Fijian-Indian population use their hands to eat. People sit on mats and meals are eaten on the floor. Rice, taro, breadfruit, sweet potatoes, cassava, fish and coconut are popular in Fijian cuisine. A typical Fijian main course might consist of a meat, poultry or fish dish, with boiled taro leaves and cassava as accompaniments. Indo-Fijian curries also must be sampled. Mrs. Salote introduced three typical Fijian dishes:

#### Lovo: an ancient cooking method

Lovo is the favorite feast of indigenous Fijians. The food is cooked beneath the ground on top of hot stones and coals. It is



Unicorn fish



Today's Guest: Mrs. Salote L Waqanisau, wife of the Ambassador of the Republic of Fiji.



Seafood meal served in the shell

Photos by Han Manman



Turtle meat dish



Lovo food wrapped in coconut palm leaves

often used to cook whole pigs, chickens, as well as seafood. Coconut is used in all its forms.

Watching the preparation of a lovo is almost as much fun as eating it.

The first step is heating the rocks, which will serve as the base for the lovo. When the rocks are sufficiently heated, they are pulled from the flames and placed at the bottom of a shallow pit. (Traditionally, Fijian men make the fire, but Mrs. Salote proudly said that she once made a lovo fire.)

Next, you wrap the food in a weave of palm fronds or banana leaves before placing them in the pit. Once it is full of food the entire hole is filled with earth and left to cook for two to three hours.

to help people be friendly and talkative. It is reported Prince Charles once sipped a cup of kava when visiting Fiji and then became very talkative. He not only gave a muddled speech to his hosts, but also confused the date of his last visit to Fiji.

Regrettably, there are no Fijian restaurants in Beijing at present. So, Mrs. Salote introduced a very easy way to prepare Fijian seafood dish: **Fried fish in lolo (coconut milk)**

**Ingredients:** 1 medium-sized fish, 1 lemon, 1 large tomato, 1 onion, 1 can coconut milk, 1 tbsp.corn flour, 1 tbsp.salt and 2 tbsp.soya bean oil

#### Directions:

1. Clean the fish
2. Marinate in lemon juice and salt
3. Fry in soya bean oil until brown on both sides.
4. Place fish in saucepan, add coconut milk, and boil for 7-10 minutes.
5. Serve with sweet potatoes

## Veronica's Recipes

By Veronica Smith

The year is 1198 and Mongol warriors on horseback known as the "Golden Horde" are on a campaign to conquer the world. They have no time to stop to eat so they store pieces of fresh meat under their saddles, which become tender patties after hours of riding – perhaps the world's first fast food!

The year is 1238 and the Hordes invade Moscow, in time the Russians add raw egg and onion to the meat and adopt this dish as part of their national cuisine, calling it steak "Tartar" after their conquerors.

The year is 1658 and ships sailing

from Hamburg, Germany to Russia return home with this new culinary delicacy. In time the meat patty is grilled.

The year is 1878 and the Hamburg-Amerika Line is bringing immigrants to the New World. They settle in New York where they continue to grill their meat patties, calling them Hamburger steaks!

Now the year is 2008; hordes of "Golden Arches" have invaded the world with their fast-food version of the hamburger, but nothing tastes better than a home-made burger!

**Ingredients:** 1 pound of ground beef, 1 small onion diced, 1 egg yolk,

1cup of bread crumbs, 1 teaspoon of soy sauce, black pepper, basil and thyme.

**Directions:** Place meat, onion, egg yolk, breadcrumbs, soy sauce, black pepper and herbs in a bowl. Mix together with your fingers until it is well blended. Separate in equal portions and form patties 1/2 inch thick. In a frying pan with a small amount of oil start cooking the burgers on high but reduce heat to low immediately. When one side is the desired color turn over. The trick is never to turn more than once, and never press down on the hamburger. Serve in a bun with your choice of condiment: ketchup, mustard, relish, tomatoes.



Photo by Liu Xiaojun

#### 汉堡包:

原料: 一磅牛肉馅儿, 一个洋葱切成小块儿, 一个鸡蛋打稠, 一杯碎面包屑, 一小茶匙酱油, 黑胡椒粉, 罗勒, 百里香, 汉堡面包。

做法: 将牛肉、洋葱、稠鸡蛋、面包屑、酱油、胡椒粉、罗勒和百里香放入碗中, 用手指将它们搅拌均匀。将混合物平均分成两份, 并制成1 / 2英寸厚的牛肉肉末饼。在煎锅中放入少量油, 先用大火烤制汉堡肉饼然后立即降为低火。一面烤好后翻转至另一面。要领是只翻转一次, 且不要向下挤压肉饼。将肉饼放入切成两片的汉堡面包内, 配料可按自己口味添加: 番茄酱、芥末、西红柿片、蘑菇、生菜、洋葱片等等。

#### Translated by William King

In the spirit of Halloween next week's recipe will be how to "Devil" an egg!



## Tour center

Daily tours to Ding Tombs and Badaling Great Wall. Open to individuals and groups. Transport, admission fees and lunch included.

**Where:** south-west corner of Tiananmen Square **When:** 10 am (departure), 7 pm (arrival), everyday **Cost:** 140 yuan per person **Tel:** 8353 1111

## Personal Classifieds

### Personal Help

A quality bilingual kindergarten (Beijing Shidai Huayou) is looking for a female English native speaker to experience a happy life with Chinese children aged (1-3) for a one-month-contract. Free accommodation, a tour of Beijing, a tour of a TV studio and learning Chinese will be your reward. **Email:** haixiao612315@sina.com **Tel:** 13810628316 (Caroline)

Miss Wang, graduate of Beijing Foreign Language University, major in translation and interpretation. Offering a service as a consecutive and simultaneous interpreter. **Tel:** 8964 8064, 13627412464 **Email:** wjade111@yahoo.com.cn

Want used TV sets & PCs? **Tel:** 13691179671, Mr. Larry Zhu

## Activities

### Chinese Traditional Culture Club

Lots of activities including antique furniture appreciation, Chinese art and calligraphy, Chinese culture lectures, (in both English and Chinese.) An enjoyable

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opportunity to practice language and gain an appreciation of Chinese culture.

**Where:** Traditional Culture Club, Room 128 Estoril House, 2 Jiangtailu, Chaoyang **When:** 4 pm-7 pm, Wednesday and Thursday, 10 am-12 am, 3 pm-6 pm, Saturday and Sunday **Tel:** 6437 9280, 13366152407



### BJ Hikers – Black Mountain to the walled village

The trail starts from north of the Black Mountain. It follows a farm trail through chestnut orchards up to the ridge. The ridge is a perfect place to stop and admire the panoramic view with the Black Mountain behind and the Great Wall in front. The descent is a bit bushy, so long trousers and sleeves are recommended.

**Where:** Changping County, north of Beijing **When:** October 23, leaving at 8 am from the Lido Hotel outside of Starbucks. **Cost:** 200 yuan for adults, 150 for children under 12 **Tel:** 13910025516 (Reservations essential)

## Music

### Variations on Last Rose of Summer

Bravo to the Beijing Concert Hall for more chamber music. Violinist Chen Xiang presents a recital with pianist Shi Jiajia. Program includes sonatas by Mozart and Strauss, Ernst's unaccompanied *Variations on Last Rose of Summer*, and an assortment of classic bonbons by Kre-

isler and others.

**Where:** Beijing Concert Hall, Liubukou, Xicheng **When:** 7:30 am, October 23 **Admission:** 60-580 yuan **Tel:** 6605 7006



### Mayday Final Home Beijing concert

Taiwan pop-rock band Mayday is widely acclaimed. The five handsome young musicians play popular songs. Mayday has always expressed its hope for world peace through music because, as Mayday member and music director of the tour Monster has said, "The world is our home."

**Where:** Workers' Gymnasium, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang **When:** 7:30 pm, November 5 **Admission:** 180-680 yuan **Tel:** 6501 6655, tickets at 6417 7845

### On this weekend

## SPORTS

### 2005 China Grand Prix of Figure Skating

Figure skating is usually referred to by a name that translates as 'artistic skating' and is also an official event in the Winter Olympics. World famous skaters will come to Beijing to compete for the prize.

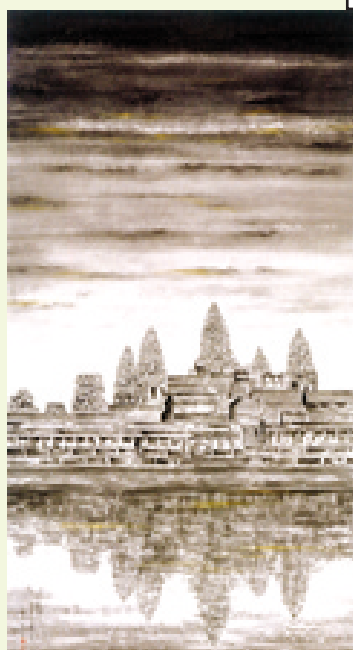
**Where:** Capital Gymnasium, 54 Baoshigqiaolu, Haidian **When:** November 3-6 **Admission:** 40-500 yuan **Tel:** 6833 5552, tickets at 6417 7845

## Exhibitions

### Contemporary Chinese painting exhibition

Li Li's paintings use Chinese raw silk, yuan calligraphy paper and other traditional materials. In a modern way and employing humorous techniques, she depicts her circle of friends and their revelations about life.

**Where:** 1-1E Huaweili, Chaoyang **When:** 9:30 am-10 pm, October 21-November 10 **Tel:** 8779 0461



Dawn, Taisen Machida

### The Sixth China-Japan Art Communication Exhibition

The exhibition presents works of ink and water painting by both Chinese and Japanese masters. The Japanese works are mostly from the Japanese Art Academy, which is originated from the traditional Chinese ink and water painting.

**Where:** the gallery of Beijing Art Academy, Tuanjiehu Bei Wu Tiao, Chaoyang District **When:** October 17-23, 9 am-5 pm **Tel:** 6507 1285 **Ticket:** 10 yuan



### Oil Painting Exhibition

Paintings by Wang Junying and Zhao Lixian. The ladies in Wang Junying's works are full of color dressed in ancient folk clothes and arouse the imagination. Zhao's works convey lively memories of days past.

**Where:** 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiaolu, Chaoyang **When:** 10 am-6 pm, Until October 30 **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6432 4122

boy moons after girl. Girl uncereemoniously breaks boy's heart. Finally, boy realizes too late that the right girl was there by his side all the time. D'oh. Chinese film with English subtitles.

**Where:** Cherry Lane Movies, An Jia Lou inside the Kent Center, Chaoyang **When:** 8 pm, October 21-22 **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 6466 2288



### Now or Never

Directed by Lucio Pellegrini, starring Jacopo Bonvicini, Violante Placido and Edoardo Gubriellini. Davis is a physics student. In his last year at university, he is distracted by his attraction to Viola, whom he has been pining for since he arrived in the city. This leads him to become part of her social milieu of students who are, in one way or another, political activists campaigning on anti-capitalist issues. Italian with English subtitles.

**Where:** Italian Embassy, 2 Dong'erjie, Sanlitun, Chaoyang **When:** 7 pm, October 27 **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6532 2187

## Jams

### Metal Night

Luoxuan Shikong, Bloody Orgasm, Joyside, Hejubian and Li Ai Band comprise a feast of heavy rock.

**Where:** Nameless Highland Bar, Building 14 Anhuili Area 1 Yayuncun, Chaoyang **When:** 9:30 pm, October 21 **Tel:** 6489 1613



### Roc Raida

Master of the turntables and member of the X-ecutioners, Roc Raida was the winner of the 1995 DMC World Finals and was inducted into the DMC Hall of Fame in 1999. Roc Raida's Red Zone Tour at the Mix Club will be his first gig in China.

**Where:** Mix Club, inside the Workers' Stadium, Gongti Beilu, Chaoyang **When:** 11 pm, October 22 **Tel:** 6530 2889



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By Lu Xiaonan

## Movies



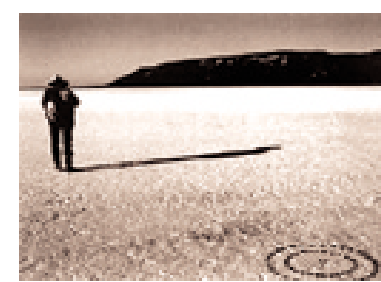
### The Real McCoy

Directed by Russell Mulcahy, starring Kim Basinger, Val Kilmer and Terence Stamp. A typical Hollywood heist movie. A reformed master cat burglar is blackmailed into hitting one last bank with an eager but inexperienced partner-in-crime.

**Where:** UME International Cineplex, (Huaxing Guoji Yingcheng), 44 Kexueyuan Nanlu, Shuangyushu, Haidian **When:** From October 20 **Tel:** 8211 2851 **Bajo California (The Limit of Time)**

Directed by Calos Bolado. Damián Ojeda, a Mexican-American plastic artist, travels the coasts of Baja California in search of his ancestors and famous cave paintings located in mountains of San Francisco de la Sierra. At the same time, this trip is a pretext to find

a faultline. During this physical and spiritual hardship, Damián seeds the Baja Californian landscape with his installation-like offerings of liberation. Very personal. Spanish with English subtitles.



**Where:** Mexican Embassy, 5 Sanlitun Dongjie, Chaoyang **When:** 7:30 pm, October 26 **Admission:** Free **Tel:** 6532 2244



### Waiting Alone (Du Zi Deng Dai)

Directed by Wu Shixian, starring Xia Yu, Li Bingbing, Bong Beibi. It's an age-old story: boy meets girl, girl gives boy the runaround,

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# “英名天下”

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您的英文名字**适合您的性格**吗?  
您的英文名字有**异性缘**吗?  
您知道**流行**的英文名字的含义吗?  
您知道那些**时尚**名字背后的**故事**吗?  
为您**量身定做**取洋名, 一切改变从“英名天下”开始!

男士: 发送 **M** + 姓名的汉语拼音 9638036 (移动用户)  
女士: 发送 **W** + 姓名的汉语拼音 9608036 (联通用户)

如: 喜欢时尚和潮流的辛小妮, 发送“wxinxiaoli”到9638036, 就可得到适合她的时尚英文名字: 含义为月神的Cynthia或Cindy, 代表人物辛西娅·尼克松, 主演了热门连续剧《欲望城市》(SEX And The City)而获得本届艾美奖最佳女主角的女明星。Cindy是月神的昵称, 代表人物超级名模辛蒂·克劳馥(Cindy Crawford)

# “今日英语时尚”

## ——潮流英语随你“尚”!

别因为英语流利就沾沾自喜哦!  
欧美最时髦的英语怎么说?  
最搞笑的俚语怎么讲?

发送 **YU** 到 **9638**,  
不做洋文“老夫子”,  
要当时尚英语人!  
最酷的英文宝库芝麻开门啦,  
同志们, 跟我“尚”!

18彩月

北京青年报 BEIJING TODAY



By Xie Xiaolin

Nobody can tell when the concept of "HR (Human Resources) Management" came to China and replaced the "personnel management" used ever since the 1950s. Today, another new HR management service, called HR outsourcing is prospering in China.

#### Origins

"Contract workers" have long existed in the western economy. They're used for urgent projects, or for part of a project. HR outsourcing management services appeared as a link between the companies and these workers.

As a new service, HR outsourcing developed with the booming of the information economy late last century when labor costs witnessed a dramatic increase. Many fast-growing firms held both shift expansions and quick shrinks, so they cooperated with HR service agents to avoid downsize issues and transfer the risk of interfering with labor laws to the agent.

Not until early this century did HR outsourcing services appear in China, when some multinational firms and professional HR service agents or headhunting agents set up offices here.

With an increasingly diversified business, this industry mainly deals with the HR relationship.

# Good and evil: HR outsourcing managed services

#### Definition, content and forms

"Outsourcing" refers to a company contracting out some traditional HR management activities to a talent service center or an HR service agent in order to improve its key competitiveness. It is an all-round, high-level HR representative service.

The service usually consists of recruitment, profile management, training and labor relations. The procedure is comprised of an analysis of potential vacancies, working analysis, tests and interviews, offering decisions, a performance testing opinion survey, payment, transition, promotion, dismissal, and employee relations coordination or reward

management.

Some services help with some elements of the process, and some help with all areas of business but in a whole organization or system. However, the service never covers the soul of a firm like cultural promotion, cultural construction, core strategy or policy.

#### Advantages

First, the firm can focus on core business to increase competitiveness. The internal HR professionals can focus on high-level strategic planning for long-term development instead of getting fed up with basic recruitment or simple training for new comers.

Secondly, a professional and

experienced HR service agent can offer a managed process and assistance to ease the pressure in managing regulations, finance, technology and policy. On this new and higher platform, the managers can learn to master these procedures and continue to handle many tough issues.

Thirdly, to realize an HR function, a firm needs technical resources or updated ERP systems, sometimes with an e-HR system. The outsourcing agent needs to invest larger sums to develop a special or exclusive applied software system, which is a good way to lower total HR management costs and indirectly increase efficiency.

#### Disadvantages

Some small agents are hired through personal contacts but may not be capable of handling the real business.

It is illegal for employers to stop labor contracts with employees without any reason; but agents can stop contracts according to their arrangement.

Next, the payment for outsourcing labor takes no account of the total income or cost to the employers. Social insurance and tax for the work goes unrecorded.

Third, responsibility is not clear when work-related injuries or accidents happen.

Last, these workers are not equal in terms of welfare, and they are trained without legal protection as they are "rental products".

#### Outsourcing Measures

Many agents using outsourced HR management list their businesses online. Therefore, it is important for enterprises to find key problems.

A high budget can lead to outsourcing services for security, economy and skillful strategy.

Firms need to be able to ascertain the reputation, professional and practical ability of the servicing agents.

A detailed and legal contract is essential for both parties in any outsourcing transaction so as to work effectively.

#### Seeking Jobs

A native Chinese university student, with one year experience as a Chinese tutor to foreigners is seeking a job as a language teacher. layla8311@yahoo.com.cn

Female, 44, looking for a job as an accountant, cashier, or warehouse manager. 13552517749, 6732 7217

Wayne Tian is looking for a job related to mechanics and electronics. He has good English speaking and listening skills. 13811508491, 65245508

Need Help with a Halloween or birthday party? Mr. Magic is an American bilingual Birthday Clown/Magician with ten years experience in China. Shows include: magic show, balloon, face painting, prizes, treasure hunts, interactive game and much more!

Special deals for charities, hospitals and schools. Contact Mr. Magic at: parsons59@yahoo.com

Ivan Young, a new graduate from Beijing International Study University, is looking for a job as a business interpreter, management assistant, public relations officer, HR officer, or office secretary. ivan1339@sina.com, 13811243074

Jenny Li, a graduate from the University of International Business and Economics, is looking for a job as an interpreter or an international trade salesperson. 13611163663, jennyli63663@2911.net

Female, Beijinger, 29, certificated public accountant, fluent in both written and spoken English, is looking for a full-time job related to finance, or a part-time job related to English. lily948@hotmail.com 83477009.

#### Vacancies

Three vacancies for full-time English teachers at a school in Qingdao, Shandong province. We pay for your accommodation and flights with a 4000 yuan salary every month: lijiaxuanxuan@sohu.com, 62552834, 13381392538

Shanghai Whyte Asia Pioneer Pharma is looking for instrumentation and automation engineers, chemical engineers, R&D managers, chemists, microbiologists, chemical analysts, process development chemists, chemical products sourcing executives, and web masters. Contact: Zhou at: 021-6120 3156

The Southern Industrial Zone, Bincheng District, Binzhou, Shandong Province, is looking for two reps and five consultants in Beijing. Contact: Mr. Chen at 13561569235

(Send positions offered and wanted info to: ayi@ynet.com. Beijing Today does not take any responsibility for the accuracy or authenticity of the information published.)

A Beijing-based English newspaper is looking for reporters, freelancers and editors. Chinese applicants should have university degrees in English or related majors and media experience. Foreigners from the UK and US with relevant media experience preferred. Please send your resumes and writing samples to: hr@ynet.com



Fresh graduates are pouring into the labor market. Photo by sina.com

## Beijing: four occupations grab talents

By Lu Pinrou

Since September, many young people have fulfilled their contracts, and are seeking new jobs. As employers seek to take advantage of this trend, the job market is warming up.

As the largest online job fair in Beijing, the "2005 Autumn Online Career Fair" attracted some 300 employers, most of whom had 20 - 100 vacancies.

The job fair showed some great job opportunities in four sectors.

#### Insurance industry

Insurance sellers and brokers are the most wanted. The insurance industry needs huge numbers of 25 to 45 year olds to sell insurance. The average salary is around 2,000 yuan. With commissions, premiums, and manager subsidies, the monthly income is considerable.

China's insurance industry is growing by 30 percent annually. Some high level talents such as actuaries, financial managers and underwriting directors are even more desired.

#### Sports

As the 2008 Olympic Games are drawing near, sports related industries have come into the spotlight. Popular posts include sales planners for the sports market, sales engineers for fitness equipment, city/community sports planners and more.

A tennis coach can charge 50 - 250 yuan per hour, and the average monthly income can exceed 8,000 yuan. Golf and extreme sports practitioners also get very high salaries.

#### Environment protection: Rise of "green" talents

The environment protection industry is a "dark horse" today due to its favorable benefits.

In the first half of 2005, the environment protection industry has taken first place in the jobs market in terms of demand increase. The average monthly payment has increased from 2,815 yuan last year to 3,203 yuan.

Jobs such as environment protection manager, water processing engineer and environment protection engineer, are among most in demand. Besides, vacancies in environmental protection consultancy, technology and projects are also rising.

#### Cosmetics: Short of salespersons and beauticians

The job ads of Shiseido Ltd. Co. were particularly eye-catching in the career fair. Positions include product development researchers, dermatology researchers, and cosmetics models. At the same time, many cosmetics enterprises are recruiting.

It is reported that the cosmetics industry are short of two types of professionals: salespersons, beauticians, image designers and beauty trainers on one side, managing personnel like store managers and production managers on the other.

## "Educating myself in China"

By Niall O Murchadha

A native of Glasgow, Scotland, Peter Lyon worked in the insurance industry after university. An extensive traveler, Peter had already toured much of South Asia and Australia before coming to China in September 2003. He has taught adults and children of all ages since then. Currently on a break from teaching to learn Chinese, Peter looks back on his teaching experiences in China.

#### Q: What parts of the job do you find frustrating?

A: Communication. What we have been told can change at any time, so the biggest problem you have as a teacher in China is that you are the last to know. Some schools think: "the foreign teacher is here, the children are happy, the parents are happy because they see a native speaker." But overall, any problems you encounter are outweighed by the positive elements of the job.

#### Q: Are Chinese children under too much pressure?

A: I think some of them are. You can see it when you teach the smaller classes in the evenings. Children have had school



Peter Lyon enjoys teaching in China. Photo by Niall O Murchadha

all day, usually followed by music lessons, and then they come to English class for more study. You can see it in their faces: they don't want to be there.

#### Q: What do you think about the class sizes?

A: I prefer teaching the big classes, because there is less apathy.

In a big class students can hide from you, but it is more lively, fun filled, and much more enjoyable to teach. Big classes are shorter. Teaching children for an hour and a half and two hours can be too long because they can lose interest.

#### Q: What is the best thing about teaching in China?

A: I would have to say the children.

Chinese children are an absolute joy to teach. They don't have a bad attitude; they respect the teacher.

Teachers are not respected by an element of society in Scotland. I went to a very bad school: I saw four teachers cry in five years at high school. Some children are taught by their parents not to listen to teachers.

In China, teachers are respected. Educating yourself is a good thing in China.

## Foreign firms fight for inspectors

By Xie Xiaolin

Foreign inspection and measuring agencies will come to China, having been granted government consent to set up independent branches from the middle of December.

In China, the inspection business

covers mainly the quality of water, air, food, clothes, electric and electronic products, and fertilizers. Professional inspectors pick up samples, analyze the major contents - particularly hazardous ingredients.

This year, demands for such pro-

fessionals have increased dramatically, especially for in-house air inspection and IT software inspection.

It is believed competition for professionals will become fiercer when foreign firms arrive.

## Wanna job in TV? Where's your qualification?

By Xie Xiaolin

The first national accreditation test for radio or TV reporters, editors and presenters will come at the end of this year, according to the State Administration of Radio Film & TV (SARFT).

The national test will take place once a year and is open to the public, aside from staff already in the sector.

It focuses on evaluating the comprehensive knowledge, capabilities and professional skills of those examined.

SARFT says only the quality certificate holders will be able to work in the sectors from then on.

The radio and TV sectors are always the hottest place for job seekers. But they lack qualified staff.

SARFT has already set out general guidelines for the test, but refuses to recommend any textbook or training agency for reference, aiming at testing the real capabilities of the candidates.

Registration for the test is open till November 10. More information is available at <http://www.sarft.gov.cn/index.html>.

## China EMBA calls for diversified growth

By Xie Xiaolin

The national EMBA courses need to use native business cases in their text books in order to incubate home grown EMBA managers. This is according to the latest "China EMBA

Education Reported" compiled by the Economic Observe & Research Institute, an independent economy and market observer.

"The local market needs localized EMBA professional managers," said

Qing Yi, president of the center.

Qing Yi also expects MBA or EMBA programs in logistics, retail management, agricultural product trading, and accounting to witness rapid growth in the coming years.



# Same expo, different prospects

By Zhao Hongyi

The 6th International Education Expo used many tactics to lure students and their parents: scholarships, on-site enrollment, lower fees and costs.

Over 300 universities and schools from 20 countries and regions were represented. Twelve countries organized their schools in official delegations.

## Scholarships and on-site enrollment attract enthusiastic students

Many British schools helped visiting students evaluate their academic records and language proficiency test results, and recommended the proper subjects and courses they can take. Most of the schools issued their letters of enrollment once they signed up the qualified students.

"It's a good chance to find the academically and financially-qualified students," said Euphemia Yuen, regional admission advisor of the Warwick Manufacturing Group, a sub-vocational institute of Warwick University. By the afternoon of the first day, Yuen has issued six enrollment letters.

Many US schools displayed their scholarship posters. New Zealand promoted their government sponsored scholarship program. The program, kicked off last year, provides 25,000 yuan (approximately \$3,000) a year for Ph.D. students, as well as another bachelor degree scholarship program.

New Zealand also offers education loans together with China's CITIC Bank and the Bank of China to Chinese students, who can receive credits in New Zealand which can be paid back in China in Renminbi.

## "No bogus schools!"

"Bogus Schools" have become a headache for many Chinese students. They first heard of such schools from the UK, when the British government carried out an investigation into the country's academic institutions and released a list of "Bogus Schools" last year.

The warning did not concern too many Chinese students. However, Chinese embassies in Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand have sent back a number of warnings about such schools, particularly middle schools, language schools and vocational

schools.

China Education Association for International Exchange, the organizer of the expo, lists quite high criteria for the participating schools.

"In addition, we invited embassy officials to confirm with the candidate schools, colleges and universities," said Zong Wa, director of the association.

## Vocational training schools are catching up

Nearly half of the exhibitors are vocational training schools and middle schools. Most of the universities provide preparatory programs as well, offering more choices.

Of the 25 exhibitors on the Australian delegation, five are training schools and another three are middle schools, including the Australian Institute of Tourism and Hospitality, the Southbank Institute of TAFE, the Kilmore International Schools and Victorian Government Schools. Other interesting training schools include Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology, Ecole du Cineme Francais, and HSL Hamburg School of Logistics.

"I'm glad as we have so many choices here," said Wang Xuiliang, a third-year student from Beijing Computer Vocational Training School. He is to graduate this year without an academic degree. "My parents are encouraging me to do further study in Europe."

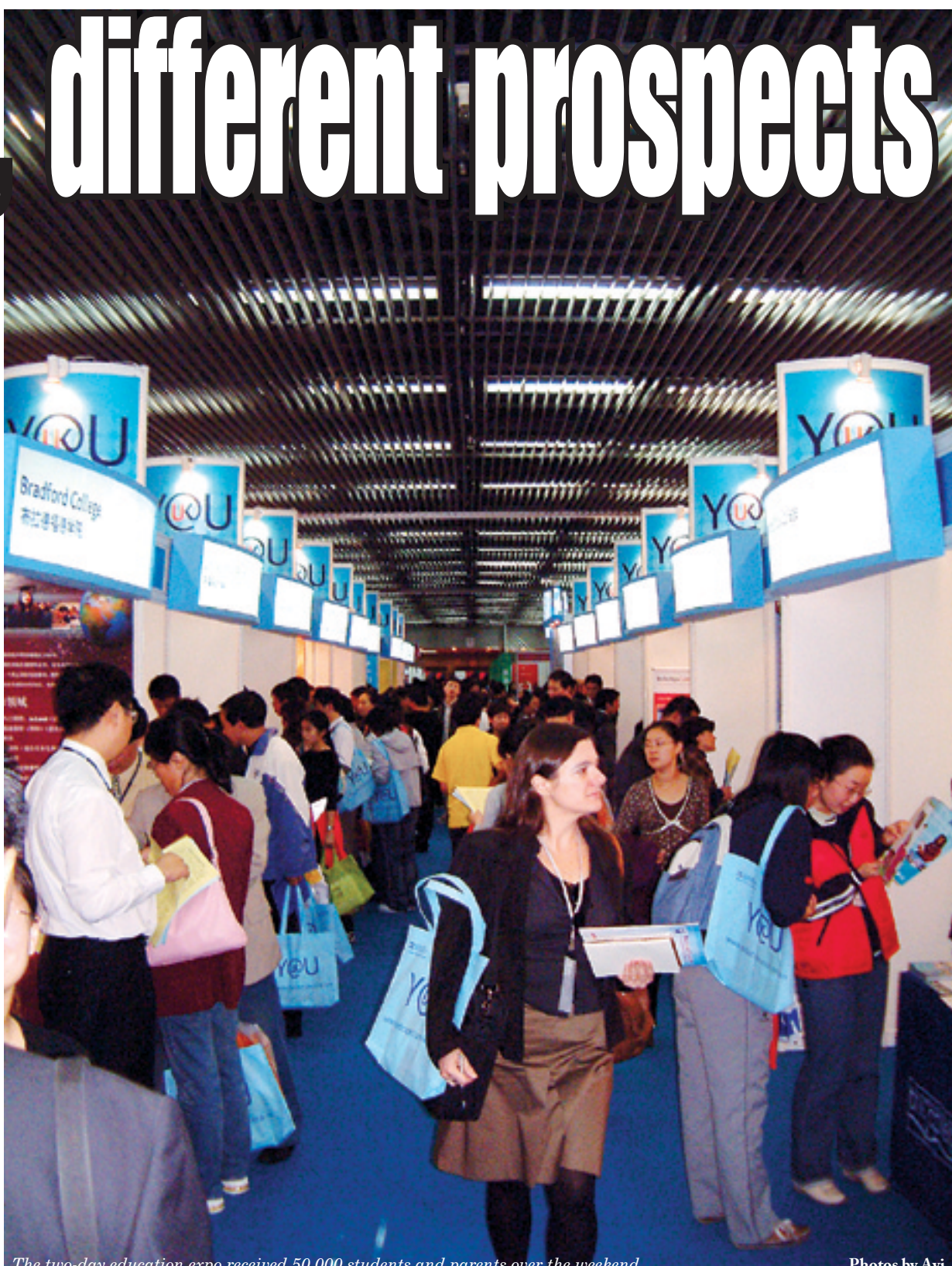
Xuiliang's mother confirmed her decision. "We want to send him to Europe for further computer science and language proficiency education, and hope he can settle down there," she said.

## More schools and governments are aiming at the market

12 countries formed country delegations. They are: the UK, Germany, France, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Holland, Poland and Denmark. These delegations included the education, cultural and visa officials from their embassies in Beijing.

The American Association of State Universities brought most of the state universities and was the hottest booth at the expo.

Nearly 810,000 Chinese have received education abroad over the past two decades.



The two-day education expo received 50,000 students and parents over the weekend.

Photos by Ayi

## New faces from new countries

By Zhao Hongyi

This year's expo had a lot of new faces - new schools and new countries. Newcomers from Poland, Hungary, Denmark, the Philippines and Argentina were aggressive and active at the expo.

**Ivan Tsarikov, director of recruitment, Central European University, Hungary:**

Our university is fully invested and supported by George Soros, the world famous financial tycoon. His aim is to receive all the qualified but poor students. We have hundreds of international students from 70 countries and 16 from China. We come here to recruit more.

**Jaroslav Jura, Lazarski School of Commerce and Law, Poland:**

China is a huge market but we have no

students from China so far.

We are also interested in establishing academic exchanges with Chinese universities.

Last but not least, Poland became an EU member in 2003. International students can easily go to Western Europe from Poland.

**Robert Villarruel, director, Universidad de Buenos Aires:**

The economic and commercial relations between our two countries are warming up. The business sector demands more linguistic graduates who know both Spanish and Chinese.

We come to China this time with two purposes: to recruit Chinese students to learn Spanish in Argentina and ask help from the Chinese government and universities to teach the students Chinese in Argentina.

The cost of education and living is quite cheap in Argentina.

**Irma V. Merza, senior specialist, Center for Interna-**

**tional Trade Expositions and Missions, Philippines**

We are neighbors and many Filipinos have Chinese ancestors. Remember, the Philippines is the third largest English-speaking country in the world, after the US and UK.

We have various types of education systems; you can always find a suitable one in the Philippines.

**Inma Gonzalez Puy, director, Instituto Cervantes, Spain:**

Over 400 million people in 23 countries speak Spanish. So, you can understand how important Spanish is.

Our King launched a project to promote Spanish teaching and learning around the world in 1991.



## My Study in the UK (6):

# Managing your wallet

By Elite Wang

Not every overseas student has time for part-time work, but you can save a lot if you manage your wallet properly. I don't encourage people to save on everything; but you can always avoid those unnecessary costs.

## Find a financially friendly bank

Most of banks will have promotions when the new academic year starts. Students opening a new account can have cash back, vouchers, or varieties of gifts from calendars to rice cookers. However, don't be seduced by these tiny temptations: you must keep what you need in mind. A student account can be easy to set up; however, they have limitations. So consult the

bank staff about credit card applications or what kind of debit cards you will be issued. My advice is to choose the bank with the most flexible credit card application regulations. A good credit card will qualify you for cheap mobile phone packages and other promotions.

## Your student card

One of the benefits of being an overseas student is that you enjoy a variety of special treatment. A student card, to a certain extent, is a discount card. The best part is its validity around Europe. A student card saves you money, as long as you know how to make the best use of it.

With your student card you can have: free entry into some

galleries and museums; (usually) ten percent discounts in cinemas, theatres, bars, and some shops; discounts on public transport; and discounts for nearly all the major sights around Europe.

Don't forget to buy an international student card at your local travel agency, which will prove your identity when out of Britain.

## Young person's card

Everyone under the age of twenty-six can get about twenty-five percent discount when they travel by train. All you need to do is take your passport or anything proving your age to the ticket service at any railway station and buy a young person

card at a very low price. Each card is valid for one year. Remember to use it when purchasing tickets and show it to the train attendant.

## Be an early bird

The rule is, the earlier you book your ticket, the less you pay. Special offers are always available, especially for E-ticket business. You may find an air-flight costs only one penny (ex tax and other fees) on the website of some air companies; or one pound for a single local journey by coach. When you buy an E-ticket you don't need to queue or walk a long distance to the station. All you need is computer access to the internet and a printer. So make sure that you

book your tickets at least two weeks earlier than your trip. If you are going to other countries, make sure you get your air tickets at least one month earlier, as you will need them to apply for your traveling visa.

## Happy bidding

It is an E-business century. Sell the things you don't need and purchase everything at low prices online. You will save a lot.

*Elite Wang, master student graduated from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. She is majoring in Comparative and General Literature, and has stayed in the UK for two years. She can be reached at: wangxiaoyuan@ynet.com*

## Ask Ayi:

**Q: I love Belgium, the political and economic headquarters of the EU. I hope to do a postgraduate degree there. Can you tell me about it?**

— Blenda 626

**A:** Belgium is at the heart of Europe, with a similar climate to Dalian in northeastern China. Belgian universities offer courses in Dutch and French. A good command of English - TOEFL scores above 550-is basic for postgraduate study.

Only a few colleges in international management or hotel management are taught in English, and they are expensive. You can sharpen your English at CERAN LINGUA (www.ceran.com), and enjoy full-time study in the Brussels School of International Studies; Universite Catholique De Louvain; Universiteit Antwerpen; Business School of Hotel Management-Brussel; Vesalius College (vrije Universiteit Brussel); University Libre of Brussels; International Management Institute Antwerp; Bstion University; Metropolitan College, Brussels; Prince Leopold Institute of Tropical Medicine; University of Liege; University of Ghent.

Total expenses vary from 60,000 to 200,000 yuan per year, but students can do part-time work for 20 hours per week, and full-time during the summer holidays. It is easy to get a visa.

(Edited by Xie Xiaolin)

## OOPS - providing free translations of university material

By Wang Xiaoyuan

Course material from prestigious international universities has been translated into Chinese and is available free on the Internet, thanks to the world's largest English-Chinese translation project, Opensource Opencourseware Prototype System (OOPS).

1,500 Chinese volunteers from around the world carried out the translation work. This project provides course material from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Bloomberg School of Public Health of John Hopkins University; Utah State University; and Materials Science and Metallurgy courses at the University of Cambridge. Over 1,100 courses are listed on the OOPS website www.cocw.net. By 2007, courses from other countries will be available online.

Zhu Xueheng, one of the founders of the translation project, who is also the translator of the Chinese version of *Lord of the Rings*, called for more volunteers. "Our slogan is 'Information for all!'" said Mr. Zhu.

## ICT education strengthened by international forum

By Xie Xiaolin

Strengthening global cooperation. That was the consensus reached by university presidents at the first International Forum on University ICT (Information, Communication and Technology) Education, held in Beijing over the weekend.

"These universities have a long history of education cooperation, like study abroad projects or exchange programs. Our school has around 400 students studying in different foreign universities every year with promising jobs after graduation," said Professor Zhou Xiaoguang, the director of the international office of Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT). The new program unites BUPT with London University in the areas of e-commerce, management and IT technology.

40 Chinese universities and 50 from other countries, including Sweden, Germany, France, Canada, America and Japan participated in the forum.

The second such forum will be held next year in Information and Communications University, Korea.



Overview of the falls

# The Smoke that thunders



A Makeshi tribe member shows off his masks during a dance routine

## Tips:

Zimbabwe Tourism Official Website:  
<http://www.zimbabwetourism.co.zw/defaulta.htm>

## Things to do:

- A flight or helicopter ride over the Falls, called "The Flight of the Angels" offers amazing views and is great for photographs.
- Take the evening Sundowner Cruise, or Booze Cruise as the locals call it. It's a gentle ride in a double decker ferry boat on the Zambezi above the Falls, sipping a cool drink and watching the sun set over the river while looking out for herds of elephant and other game on the river bank. It doesn't get much better than this!
- If you're lucky and you're there during a full moon, head for the rain forest at night and try to catch the lunar rainbow, a silver rainbow caused by the moonlight shining through the spray. Take someone special for a true moment of romance.
- Have a picnic lunch on Kandahar Island in the middle of the Zambezi above the Falls
- Try your luck at Elephant Hills or Makhasa Sun Casinos
- Take an elephant ride through the Nakavango Wildlife Estate and experience real the Africa

## When to view the Falls:

While Victoria Falls is amazing the whole year round, the water flows over in March/April after the rainy season. Weather is generally good all year round.

**Things to remember:** Keep foreign currency on hand (US Dollars and British Sterling), as this is needed to pay for entry to the Falls and for things like white water rafting.

By Francisco Little

The peaceful flow of the Zambezi River in northwest Zimbabwe shows no sign of what is to happen downstream. Deep green lazy water gurgles along then suddenly loses its footing and plunges 100 meters into the Zambezi Gorge.

The sound of the water as it succumbs to the laws of gravity pummels your senses. Locals call it Mosi-oa-Tunya, meaning "the smoke that thunders". It's an endless roar beyond the measure of decibels. This is nature in its purest form.

Victoria Falls is not just something you look at, it's something you feel.

"Officially" discovered by British explorer David Livingstone in the 1860s, he named the falls Victoria after his queen. Today this awesome spectacle is officially listed as a World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World.

## World's Largest Curtain of Water

Livingstone said the sight was so lovely that angels must have stopped in flight to have a look. It's impossible to disagree with him. A walk through the tropical rain forest that grows perennially around the Falls necessitates a raincoat and umbrella, as the spray thrown up by the water falling, rises for almost 200 meters above the gorge and can be seen kilometers away. A wet and often slippery pathway cuts through the thick vegetation and follows the edge of the gorge for an unrestricted view of nature at work. Standing before the world's largest curtain of water and watching the sunshine create rainbows through the spray becomes a spiritual experience to many visitors. The ground below your feet vibrates as 550,000 cubic meters of water take the leap every minute along a stretch of gorge break 1,708 meters long. You have to shout at the top of your voice to be heard, but this is not a time to talk, it's more about absorbing

Rainbow on the Falls



the moment. A fault in the gorge line on the side of the main falls produces the aptly named Devil's Cataract, a viciously fast flowing stream, awesome in its raw power. Forget about Niagara and Iguazu Falls, the rush in front of you is in a league of its own.

Today, the same feeling that captured the imagination of explorers, hunters and missionaries, the thrill seekers of the 19th Century, grips the imagination of modern tourists, but for many, they come for more than just the thundering waterfall.

## Adrenalin Rush for Extreme Sports Fans

Some say the human ego appears to have taken its cue from the force of falling water and the area is now billed as the adrenaline capital of Africa.

Leading the extreme sports influx is the white water rafting in the frothing rapids of the Zambezi River below Victoria Falls. Internationally acclaimed as the wildest water ride in the world, the rapids are classified by the British Canoe Union as Grade 5 – "extremely difficult, long and violent rapids, steep gradients, big drops and pressure areas". Rapids have names like The Mother, Terminator and Oblivion, and if that doesn't put you off the fast and furious action in the washing machine of white water, you must have nerves of steel. Prepare to spend a lot of time in the water. Its high volume but fortunately this part of the river has little exposed rock, either in the rapids or the pools below the rapids.

Hot on the heels of the foaming fury is the now legendary bungee jumping off the Victoria Falls Bridge that provides a rail link between Zimbabwe and Zambia. The bridge spans 152 meters and was originally built in the UK and then shipped out and reassembled in 1905. Today it is where bungee jumpers from across the world come to test themselves. While not the highest jump in the world at 116 meters, here thrill seekers throw themselves down into a gorge of serrated rocks. To their credit the company operating the bungee jumps boasts a clean safety record.

A recent addition to the high action water sports is river surfing, which involves literally surfing the rapids on body boards. You get a crash course in riverboarding skills and are let loose to play on the Zambezi. Just to be on the safe side a qualified river guide comes along to keep an eye on you. For those who like a little more spice in their action, try riding the 'whirlies' and 'squirts' along the way, vicious sections of water that have a life of their own.

For bragging purposes, or sources of embarrassment, your escapades are



A local shop for animal wares



Sunset scene



The Victoria Falls bridge



Whitewater rafting



Traditional Ndebele Tribe huts at the Craft Village  
Photos provided by Francisco Little

filmed and photographed.

Kayakers and fishing lovers fear not. You have not been forgotten.

## Varied Attractions to Captivate

The small town of Victoria Falls offers every kind of accommodation from budget camping to five star splendor, none more so than the renowned Victoria Falls Hotel. It is probably still the world's best example of the opulence and grand style that went with colonial life. Built in 1904 when the Cape to Cairo railway dream of diamond baron Cecil John Rhodes reached the Falls, the hotel's magnificent Edwardian architecture has seduced guests from around the world with its unique setting for decades. Sitting gracefully in acres of landscaped garden the hotel overlooks the Victoria Falls bridge and gorges, while being only a few minutes walk from the center of the town and a ten minute walk along the hotel's private path to the Falls themselves.

As the area borders the Zambezi National Park, which runs 40 km along the Zambezi River, game drives are available with sightings of impala, antelope, banded mongoose, warthogs, buffalo and even elephants are not uncommon.

Some of these find their way onto the menus in many of the restaurants, where barbecues are most popular. Apart from the usual meat, try out the crocodile, warthog, impala antelope and ostrich steaks all washed down with a bottle of Zimbabwe Pinotage.

A large Craft Village in the town offers visitors the chance to pick up souvenirs, have your hair braided and watch traditional African dancing in the evenings, including the amazing feats of the Makishi Tribe, who dance on stilts and scare the wits out of children with their hideous looking masks. There is even a Shaman in residence who will throw the bones and tell you your fortune, after consulting his spiritual ancestors.

Visitors will not be able to avoid the hundreds of local touts trying desperately to peddle their carvings, organize tours, change money and generally harass visitors, but that's part of the experience around any world famous site. Crafters often try to exchange their artwork for visitors' shoes or shirts: signs of desperation from people for whom survival is a daily consideration.

For all the other attractions on offer around this small town, the roar that follows you wherever you go within a 5 km radius of this natural wonder is a constant reminder of why you came. Any other natural sights you see after Victoria Falls will fade into a distant second place.